IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: THEEL, JULIE) Examiner: Hylinski, Alyssa
Serial No.: 10/668,049) Art Unit: 3711
Filed: 09/22/2003	Attorney Docket Number: 83359,0002
For: DISMEMBERABLE CANINE APPEASEMENT DEVICE AND METHOD)))

APPEAL BRIEF

Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This brief is filed with small entity filing fee of \$270 per § 41.20(b)(2).

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is the inventor Julie Theel who is the sole and exclusive owner of the patent.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Currently, there are none.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS ON APPEAL

The applicant appeals final rejection of claims 21-30, 41-47 and 55-62, finally rejected in the final office action of January 6, 2009. Applicant prays for relief to the BPAI to allow Claims 21-30, 41-47 and 55-62.

- 1-20. (canceled)
- 21. (finally rejected) A pet toy device for a house pet, the device comprising:
- a pet toy main member having an exterior surface and one or more interface surfaces, wherein the main member exterior surface is non-destructively gripable by a house pet using its mouth and paws, wherein the main member is adapted to teeth of a dog and to withstand biting, chewing, and rending, and wherein the pet toy main member is shaped and sized to prevent swallowing by a house pet; and

one or more pet toy secondary members, each pet toy secondary member having an exterior surface that is non-destructively gripable by a house pet using its mouth and paws; each pet toy secondary member further having an interface surface that corresponds to the main member interface surfaces, wherein the secondary members are adapted to teeth of a dog and to withstand biting, chewing, and rending, and wherein the pet toy secondary members are shaped and sized to prevent swallowing by a house pet;

wherein the interface surfaces of the main member and the interface surfaces of the secondary members are attachable by a human to create an attached toy state, non-destructively detachable by a house pet using its mouth and paws to create a detached toy state, and repeatably reattachable by a human to recreate an attached toy state after being detached by a house pet;

thereby enabling a house pet to tear apart the main and secondary members of the toy by gripping the exterior surfaces of the toy with its paws and mouth, and subsequently enabling a human to easily reassemble the toy by reattaching the interface surfaces of the main member and secondary members.

- 22. (finally rejected) The device of claim 21, wherein the house pet is a dog.
- 23. (finally rejected) The device of claim 21, wherein the exterior surfaces of the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are sufficiently durable to non-destructively withstand biting and chewing by a house pet.
- 24. (finally rejected) The device of claim 21, wherein the interface surfaces of the main member and the interface surfaces of the secondary members are attached securely enough to require a substantial amount of force to detach the secondary members from the main member that a challenge is provided for a house pet.
- 25. (finally rejected) The device of claim 21, wherein the pet toy is constructed from one or more materials selected from the group of denim, plush, corduroy, and rubber.
- 26. (finally rejected) The device of claim 21, wherein the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are attached at the interface surfaces using hook and loop tape.
- 27. (finally rejected) The device of claim 21, wherein the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are attached at the interface surfaces using magnets.
- 28. (finally rejected) The device of claim 21, wherein the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are attached at the interface surfaces using snaps, whereby the pet toy main member includes a protrusion at each interface surface that snaps into a mating socketed

portion on an interface surface of each secondary member, thereby attaching the pet toy main member to the pet toy secondary members.

- 29. (finally rejected) The device of claim 21, wherein the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are attached at the interface surfaces using snaps, whereby the pet toy main member includes a socketed portion at each interface surface that snaps onto a mating protrusion on an interface surface of each secondary member, thereby attaching the pet toy main member to the pet toy secondary members.
- 30. (finally rejected) The device of claim 21, further comprising a cord that connects the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members at the interfacing surfaces, wherein the cord is sized in length to allow the interface surfaces on the main member to separate from the interface surfaces on the secondary member while still remaining connected via the cord, and wherein the cord facilitates restoring the pet toy to the attached toy state after the main member and the secondary members have been detached from each other by a house pet.
- 31. (withdrawn) A method of producing a pet toy for a house pet, the method comprising:
 forming a pet toy main member having an exterior surface and one or more interface
 surfaces, wherein the main member exterior surface is gripable by a house pet using its mouth
 and paws, and wherein the pet toy main member is shaped and sized to prevent swallowing by a
 house pet; and

forming one or more pet toy secondary members, each pet toy secondary member having an exterior surface that is gripable by a house pet using its mouth and paws; each pet toy secondary member further having an interface surface that corresponds to the main member interface surfaces, and wherein the pet toy secondary members are shaped and sized to prevent swallowing by a house pet; wherein the interface surfaces of the main member and the interface surfaces of the secondary members are attachable by a human to create an attached toy state, non-destructively detachable by a house pet using its mouth and paws to create a detached toy state, and repeatably reattachable by a human to recreate an attached toy state after being detached by a house pet;

thereby enabling a house pet to tear apart the main and secondary members of the toy by gripping the exterior surfaces of the toy with its paws and mouth, and subsequently allowing a human to easily reassemble the toy by reattaching the interface surfaces of the main member and secondary members.

- 32. (withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the house pet is a dog.
- 33. (withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the exterior surfaces of the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are sufficiently durable to non-destructively withstand biting and chewing by a house pet.
- 34. (withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the interface surfaces of the main member and the interface surfaces of the secondary members are attached securely enough to require a substantial amount of force to detach the secondary members from the main member that a challenge is provided for a house pet.
- 35. (withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the pet toy is constructed from one or more materials selected from the group of denim, plush, corduroy, and rubber.
- 36. (withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are attached at the interface surfaces using hook and loop tape.
- 37. (withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are attached at the interface surfaces using magnets.
- 38. (withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are attached at the interface surfaces using snaps, whereby the pet toy main member includes a protrusion at each interface surface that snaps into a mating socketed portion on an interface surface of each secondary member, thereby attaching the pet toy main member to the pet toy secondary members.
- 39. (withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are attached at the interface surfaces using snaps, whereby the pet toy main member includes a socketed portion at each interface surface that snaps onto a mating protrusion on an interface surface of each secondary member, thereby attaching the pet toy main member to the pet toy secondary members.
- 40. (withdrawn) The method of claim 31, further comprising a cord that connects the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members at the interfacing surfaces, wherein the cord is sized in length to allow the interface surfaces on the main member to separate from the interface surfaces on the secondary member while still remaining connected via the cord, and wherein the cord facilitates restoring the pet toy to the attached toy state after the main member and the secondary members have been detached from each other by a house pet.
- 41. (finally rejected) A pet toy device for a house pet, the device comprising:

a pet toy main member having an exterior surface and one or more interface surfaces, wherein the main member exterior surface is non-destructively gripable by a house pet using its mouth and paws, wherein each of the main member interface surfaces includes a first portion of a snap connector, wherein the main member is adapted to teeth of a dog and to withstand biting, chewing, and rending, and wherein the pet toy main member is shaped and sized to prevent swallowing by a house pet; and

one or more pet toy secondary members, each pet toy secondary member having an exterior surface that is non-destructively gripable by a house pet using its mouth and paws; each pet toy secondary member further having an interface surface that includes a second portion of a snap connector that mateably corresponds to the first portion of the snap connector on each main member interface surface, wherein the secondary members are adapted to teeth of a dog and to withstand biting, chewing, and rending, and wherein the pet toy secondary members are shaped and sized to prevent swallowing by a house pet;

wherein the interface surfaces of the main member and the interface surfaces of the secondary members are attachable by a human to create an attached toy state via the snap connectors, non-destructively detachable by a house pet using its mouth and paws to create a detached toy state by disconnecting the snap connectors, and repeatably reattachable by a human to recreate an attached toy state via the snap connectors after being detached by a house pet; thereby enabling a house pet to tear apart the main and secondary members of the toy by gripping the exterior surfaces of the toy with its paws and mouth, and subsequently enabling a human to easily reassemble the toy by reattaching the interface surfaces of the main member and secondary members.

- 42. (finally rejected) The device of claim 41, wherein the house pet is a dog.
- 43. (finally rejected) The device of claim 41, wherein the exterior surfaces of the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are sufficiently durable to non-destructively withstand biting and chewing by a house pet.
- 44. (finally rejected) The device of claim 41, wherein the interface surfaces of the main member and the interface surfaces of the secondary members are attached securely enough via the snap connectors to require a substantial amount of force to detach the secondary members from the main member that a challenge is provided for a house pet.

- 45. (finally rejected) The device of claim 41, wherein the pet toy is constructed, at least in part, from rubber material.
- 46. (finally rejected) The device of claim 41, wherein the first portion of a snap connector includes a protrusion, and the second portion of a snap connector includes a mating socketed portion, and wherein the first portion of the snap connector is shaped and sized to snap into the second portion of the snap connector, thereby attaching the pet toy main member to the pet toy secondary members.
- 47. (finally rejected) The device of claim 41, wherein the first portion of a snap connector includes a socketed portion, and the second portion of a snap connector includes a mating protrusion, and wherein the first portion of the snap connector is shaped and sized to snap onto the second portion of the snap connector, thereby attaching the pet toy main member to the pet toy secondary members.
- 48. (withdrawn) A method of producing a pet toy for a house pet, the method comprising:
 forming a pet toy main member having an exterior surface and one or more interface
 surfaces, wherein the main member exterior surface is non-destructively gripable by a house pet
 using its mouth and paws, wherein each of the main member interface surfaces includes a first
 portion of a snap connector, and wherein the pet toy main member is shaped and sized to prevent
 swallowing by a house pet; and

forming one or more pet toy secondary members, each pet toy secondary member having an exterior surface that is non-destructively gripable by a house pet using its mouth and paws; each pet toy secondary member further having an interface surface that includes a second portion of a snap connector that materably corresponds to the first portion of the snap connector on each main member interface surface, and wherein the pet toy secondary members are shaped and sized to prevent swallowing by a house pet;

wherein the interface surfaces of the main member and the interface surfaces of the secondary members are attachable by a human to create an attached toy state via the snap connectors, non-destructively detachable by a house pet using its mouth and paws to create a detached toy state by disconnecting the snap connectors, and repeatably reattachable by a human to recreate an attached toy state via the snap connectors after being detached by a house pet;

thereby enabling a house pet to tear apart the main and secondary members of the toy by gripping the exterior surfaces of the toy with its paws and mouth, and subsequently enabling a human to easily reassemble the toy by reattaching the interface surfaces of the main member and secondary members.

- 49. (withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein the house pet is a dog.
- 50. (withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein the exterior surfaces of the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are sufficiently durable to non-destructively withstand biting and chewing by a house pet.
- 51. (withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein the interface surfaces of the main member and the interface surfaces of the secondary members are attached securely enough via the snap connectors to require a substantial amount of force to detach the secondary members from the main member that a challenge is provided for a house pet.
- 52. (withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein the pet toy is constructed, at least in part, from rubber material.
- 53. (withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein the first portion of a snap connector includes a protrusion, and the second portion of a snap connector includes a mating socketed portion, and wherein the first portion of the snap connector is shaped and sized to snap into the second portion of the snap connector, thereby attaching the pet toy main member to the pet toy secondary members.
- 54. (withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein the first portion of a snap connector includes a socketed portion, and the second portion of a snap connector includes a mating protrusion, and wherein the first portion of the snap connector is shaped and sized to snap onto the second portion of the snap connector, thereby attaching the pet toy main member to the pet toy secondary members.
- 55. (finally rejected) The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 2.1, wherein the house pet is a large dog.
- 56. (finally rejected) The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 55, wherein the pet toy device is constructed of a plastic material.
- 57. (finally rejected) The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 56, wherein the plastic material is a vinyl material.

- 58. (finally rejected) The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 56, wherein the plastic material is a polyethylene material.
- 59. (finally rejected) The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 41, wherein the house pet is a large dog.
- 60. (finally rejected) The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 59, wherein the pet toy device is constructed of a plastic material.
- 61. (finally rejected) The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 60, wherein the plastic material is a vinyl material.
- 62. (finally rejected) The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 60, wherein the plastic material is a polyethylene material.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

The amendment in the response to the Non Final Office Action of March 31, 2008 was entered. There was no denial of the entry of the amendment. The applicant mailed the amendment on September 30, 2008. The amendment made before final is listed as follows verbatim for the purpose of reference.

1-20. (canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A pet toy device for a house pet, the device comprising:

a pet toy main member having an exterior surface and one or more interface surfaces, wherein the main member exterior surface is non-destructively gripable by a house pet using its mouth and paws, wherein the main member is adapted to teeth of a dog and to withstand biting, chewing, and rending, and wherein the pet toy main member is shaped and sized to prevent swallowing by a house pet; and

one or more pet toy secondary members, each pet toy secondary member having an exterior surface that is non-destructively gripable by a house pet using its mouth and paws; each pet toy secondary member further having an interface surface that corresponds to the main member interface surfaces, wherein the secondary members are adapted to teeth of a dog and to withstand biting, chewing, and rending, and wherein the pet toy secondary members are shaped and sized to prevent swallowing by a house pet;

wherein the interface surfaces of the main member and the interface surfaces of the secondary members are attachable by a human to create an attached toy state, non-destructively

detachable by a house pet using its mouth and paws to create a detached toy state, and repeatably reattachable by a human to recreate an attached toy state after being detached by a house pet;

thereby enabling a house pet to tear apart the main and secondary members of the toy by gripping the exterior surfaces of the toy with its paws and mouth, and subsequently enabling a human to easily reassemble the toy by reattaching the interface surfaces of the main member and secondary members.

- 22. (original) The device of claim 21, wherein the house pet is a dog.
- 23. (original) The device of claim 2.1, wherein the exterior surfaces of the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are sufficiently durable to non-destructively withstand biting and chewing by a house pet.
- 24. (original) The device of claim 21, wherein the interface surfaces of the main member and the interface surfaces of the secondary members are attached securely enough to require a substantial amount of force to detach the secondary members from the main member that a challenge is provided for a house pet.
- 25. (original) The device of claim 21, wherein the pet toy is constructed from one or more materials selected from the group of denim, plush, corduroy, and rubber.
- 26. (original) The device of claim 21, wherein the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are attached at the interface surfaces using hook and loop tape.
- 27. (original) The device of claim 21, wherein the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are attached at the interface surfaces using magnets.
- 28. (original) The device of claim 21, wherein the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are attached at the interface surfaces using snaps, whereby the pet toy main member includes a protrusion at each interface surface that snaps into a mating socketed portion on an interface surface of each secondary member, thereby attaching the pet toy main member to the pet toy secondary members.
- 29. (original) The device of claim 21, wherein the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are attached at the interface surfaces using snaps, whereby the pet toy main member includes a socketed portion at each interface surface that snaps onto a mating protrusion on an interface surface of each secondary member, thereby attaching the pet toy main member to the pet toy secondary members.

30. (previously presented) The device of claim 21, further comprising a cord that connects the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members at the interfacing surfaces, wherein the cord is sized in length to allow the interface surfaces on the main member to separate from the interface surfaces on the secondary member while still remaining connected via the cord, and wherein the cord facilitates restoring the pet toy to the attached toy state after the main member and the secondary members have been detached from each other by a house pet.

31-40. (withdrawn)

21.40. (withmawn)

41. (Currently amended) A pet toy device for a house pet, the device comprising:

a pet toy main member having an exterior surface and one or more interface surfaces, wherein the main member exterior surface is non-destructively gripable by a house pet using its mouth and paws, wherein each of the main member interface surfaces includes a first portion of a snap connector, wherein the main member is adapted to teeth of a dog and to withstand biting, chewing, and rending, and wherein the pet toy main member is shaped and sized to prevent swallowing by a house pet; and

one or more pet toy secondary members, each pet toy secondary member having an exterior surface that is non-destructively gripable by a house pet using its mouth and paws; each pet toy secondary member further having an interface surface that includes a second portion of a snap connector that mateably corresponds to the first portion of the snap connector on each main member interface surface, wherein the secondary members are adapted to teeth of a dog and to withstand biting, chewing, and rending, and wherein the pet toy secondary members are shaped and sized to prevent swallowing by a house pet;

wherein the interface surfaces of the main member and the interface surfaces of the secondary members are attachable by a human to create an attached toy state via the snap connectors, non-destructively detachable by a house pet using its mouth and paws to create a detached toy state by disconnecting the snap connectors, and repeatably reattachable by a human to recreate an attached toy state via the snap connectors after being detached by a house pet; thereby enabling a house pet to tear apart the main and secondary members of the toy by gripping the exterior surfaces of the toy with its paws and mouth, and subsequently enabling a human to easily reassemble the toy by reattaching the interface surfaces of the main member and secondary members.

42. (original) The device of claim 41, wherein the house pet is a dog.

- 43. (original) The device of claim 41, wherein the exterior surfaces of the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are sufficiently durable to non-destructively withstand biting and chewing by a house pet.
- 44. (original) The device of claim 41, wherein the interface surfaces of the main member and the interface surfaces of the secondary members are attached securely enough via the snap connectors to require a substantial amount of force to detach the secondary members from the main member that a challenge is provided for a house pet.
- 45. (original) The device of claim 41, wherein the pet toy is constructed, at least in part, from rubber material.
- 46. (original) The device of claim 41, wherein the first portion of a snap connector includes a protrusion, and the second portion of a snap connector includes a mating socketed portion, and wherein the first portion of the snap connector is shaped and sized to snap into the second portion of the snap connector, thereby attaching the pet toy main member to the pet toy secondary members.
- 47. (original) The device of claim 41, wherein the first portion of a snap connector includes a socketed portion, and the second portion of a snap connector includes a mating protrusion, and wherein the first portion of the snap connector is shaped and sized to snap onto the second portion of the snap connector, thereby attaching the pet toy main member to the pet toy secondary members.

48-54. (withdrawn)

- 55. (previously presented) The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 2.1, wherein the house pet is a large dog.
- 56. (previously presented) The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 55, wherein the pet toy device is constructed of a plastic material.
- 57. (previously presented) The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 56, wherein the plastic material is a vinyl material.
- 58. (previously presented) The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 56, wherein the plastic material is a polyethylene material.
- 59. (previously presented) The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 41, wherein the house pet is a large dog.

- 60. (previously presented) The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 59, wherein the pet toy device is constructed of a plastic material.
- 61. (previously presented) The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 60, wherein the plastic material is a vinyl material.
- 62. (previously presented) The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 60, wherein the plastic material is a polyethylene material.

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The applicant appeals all claim rejections 35 USC § 103 of claims 21-30, 41-47 and 55-62.

- Applicant appeals examiner's rejection that Claims 21-30, 41-47 and 55-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Shamitoff.
- Applicant appeals examiner's rejection that Claims 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shamitoff and Russel.
- Applicant appeals examiner's rejection that Claims 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)
 as being unpatentable over Shamitoff and Alonso 3,375,604.
- Applicant appeals examiner's rejection that Claims 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shamitoff and Essebaggers 5,108,100.

VII. ARGUMENT

A. Applicant appeals examiner's rejection that Claims 21-30, 41-47 and 55-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Shamitoff.

As previously stated in the remarks of September 30, 2008, Shamitoff does not disclose a dog toy. The present invention is a dog toy. The Shamitoff reference would be totally changed in its principle of operation if it were to become a dog toy. According to the manual of patent examining procedure 2143.01 states that the proposed modification cannot change the principle of operation of a reference. The teachings and suggestions of the Shamitoff reference cannot be modified using another prior art reference to change the Shamitoff reference to disclose the claimed invention. Shamitoff further fails to teach in each and every element of the claims for the reasons stated above. The claim amendments are not vague. The main member and secondary members being adapted to teeth of a dog discloses a ruggedized dog toy having parts that cannot be swallowed, rather than the device of the Shamitoff reference.

The Shamitoff reference teaches a plurality of small detachable portions of the head such as eyes, ears, earrings, nose, mouth, mustache, beard and hair. (Shamitoff col. 5, line 5-8) It is common knowledge that items such as these small detachable portions are extremely small and easy to swallow by a common pet dog such as a Labrador Retriever. Thus, the Shamitoff reference teaches away from a pet toy.

The Shamitoff reference in combination with the other references does not teach a pet toy of the present invention with primary and secondary members that are nondestructively disassembled and re-combinable.

The supplemental declaration of Julie Theel provides secondary Graham factor evidence as to nonobviousness (Exhibit A). The Rule 1.132 affidavit of Julie Theel of May 20, 2002 in United States application 10/154,127, now US Patent 6,623,328 should also be considered for secondary factors (Exhibit B).

B. Applicant appeals examiner's rejection that Claims 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shamitoff and Russell.

For the sake of brevity, but rejections of the independent claims were discussed in detail on the understanding that the dependent claims are also patently distinct over the prior art, as they did then directly from their restrictive independent claims. Nevertheless, but dependent claims include additional features that, in combination with those of the independent claims, provide further separate and independent basis for patentability.

Shamitoff fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 26 for the reasons stated above. While the Russell reference may disclose the additional limitation of claim 26, the Russell reference clearly does not supply the deficiencies of claim 21 set forth above.

Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that claim 26 is patentable because claim 21 is patentable.

C. Applicant appeals examiner's rejection that Claims 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shamitoff and Alonso.

For the sake of brevity, but rejections of the independent claims were discussed in detail on the understanding that the dependent claims are also patently distinct over the prior art, as they did then directly from their restrictive independent claims. Nevertheless, but dependent

claims include additional features that, in combination with those of the independent claims, provide further separate and independent basis for patentability.

Shamitoff fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 27 for the reasons stated above. While the Alonso reference may disclose the additional limitation of claim 26, the Alsonso reference clearly does not supply the deficiencies of claim 21 set forth above. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that claim 27 is patentable because claim 21 is patentable.

D. Applicant appeals examiner's rejection that Claims 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shamitoff and Essebaggers 5,108,100.

For the sake of brevity, but rejections of the independent claims were discussed in detail on the understanding that the dependent claims are also patently distinct over the prior art, as they did then directly from their restrictive independent claims. Nevertheless, but dependent claims include additional features that, in combination with those of the independent claims, provide further separate and independent basis for patentability.

Shamitoff fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 30 for the reasons stated above. While the Essebaggers reference may disclose the additional limitation of claim 30, the Essebaggers reference clearly does not supply the deficiencies of claim 21 set forth above. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that claim 30 is patentable because claim 21 is patentable.

Respectfully submitted for appellant.

Dated: 8/28/2004

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VIIL CLAIMS APPENDIX

21. A pet toy device for a house pet, the device comprising:

a pet toy main member having an exterior surface and one or more interface surfaces, wherein the main member exterior surface is non-destructively gripable by a house pet using its mouth and paws, wherein the main member is adapted to teeth of a dog and to withstand biting, chewing, and rending, and wherein the pet toy main member is shaped and sized to prevent swallowing by a house pet; and

one or more pet toy secondary members, each pet toy secondary member having an exterior surface that is non-destructively gripable by a house pet using its mouth and paws; each pet toy secondary member further having an interface surface that corresponds to the main member interface surfaces, wherein the secondary members are adapted to teeth of a dog and to withstand biting, chewing, and rending, and wherein the pet toy secondary members are shaped and sized to prevent swallowing by a house pet:

wherein the interface surfaces of the main member and the interface surfaces of the secondary members are attachable by a human to create an attached toy state, non-destructively detachable by a house pet using its mouth and paws to create a detached toy state, and repeatably reattachable by a human to recreate an attached toy state after being detached by a house pet;

thereby enabling a house pet to tear apart the main and secondary members of the toy by gripping the exterior surfaces of the toy with its paws and mouth, and subsequently enabling a human to easily reassemble the toy by reattaching the interface surfaces of the main member and secondary members.

- 22. The device of claim 21, wherein the house pet is a dog.
- 23. The device of claim 21, wherein the exterior surfaces of the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are sufficiently durable to non-destructively withstand biting and chewing by a house pet.
- 24. The device of claim 21, wherein the interface surfaces of the main member and the interface surfaces of the secondary members are attached securely enough to require a substantial amount of force to detach the secondary members from the main member that a challenge is provided for a house pet.

- 25. The device of claim 21, wherein the pet toy is constructed from one or more materials selected from the group of denim, plush, corduroy, and rubber.
- 26. The device of claim 21, wherein the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are attached at the interface surfaces using hook and loop tape.
- 27. The device of claim 21, wherein the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are attached at the interface surfaces using magnets.
- 28. The device of claim 21, wherein the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are attached at the interface surfaces using snaps, whereby the pet toy main member includes a protrusion at each interface surface that snaps into a mating socketed portion on an interface surface of each secondary member, thereby attaching the pet toy main member to the pet toy secondary members.
- 29. The device of claim 21, wherein the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are attached at the interface surfaces using snaps, whereby the pet toy main member includes a socketed portion at each interface surface that snaps onto a mating protrusion on an interface surface of each secondary member, thereby attaching the pet toy main member to the pet toy secondary members.
- 30. The device of claim 2.1, further comprising a cord that connects the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members at the interfacing surfaces, wherein the cord is sized in length to allow the interface surfaces on the main member to separate from the interface surfaces on the secondary member while still remaining connected via the cord, and wherein the cord facilitates restoring the pet toy to the attached toy state after the main member and the secondary members have been detached from each other by a house pet.
- 41. A pet toy device for a house pet, the device comprising:

a pet toy main member having an exterior surface and one or more interface surfaces, wherein the main member exterior surface is non-destructively gripable by a house pet using its mouth and paws, wherein each of the main member interface surfaces includes a first portion of a snap connector, wherein the main member is adapted to teeth of a dog and to withstand biting, chewing, and rending, and wherein the pet toy main member is shaped and sized to prevent swallowing by a house pet; and

one or more pet toy secondary members, each pet toy secondary member having an exterior surface that is non-destructively gripable by a house pet using its mouth and paws; each

pet toy secondary member further having an interface surface that includes a second portion of a snap connector that mateably corresponds to the first portion of the snap connector on each main member interface surface, wherein the secondary members are adapted to teeth of a dog and to withstand biting, chewing, and rending, and wherein the pet toy secondary members are shaped and sized to prevent swallowing by a house pet;

wherein the interface surfaces of the main member and the interface surfaces of the secondary members are attachable by a human to create an attached toy state via the snap connectors, non-destructively detachable by a house pet using its mouth and paws to create a detached toy state by disconnecting the snap connectors, and repeatably reattachable by a human to recreate an attached toy state via the snap connectors after being detached by a house pet; thereby enabling a house pet to tear apart the main and secondary members of the toy by gripping the exterior surfaces of the toy with its paws and mouth, and subsequently enabling a human to easily reassemble the toy by reattaching the interface surfaces of the main member and secondary members.

- 42. The device of claim 41, wherein the house pet is a dog.
- 43. The device of claim 41, wherein the exterior surfaces of the pet toy main member and the pet toy secondary members are sufficiently durable to non-destructively withstand biting and chewing by a house pet.
- 44. The device of claim 41, wherein the interface surfaces of the main member and the interface surfaces of the secondary members are attached securely enough via the snap connectors to require a substantial amount of force to detach the secondary members from the main member that a challenge is provided for a house pet.
- 45. The device of claim 41, wherein the pet toy is constructed, at least in part, from rubber material.
- 46. The device of claim 41, wherein the first portion of a snap connector includes a protrusion, and the second portion of a snap connector includes a mating socketed portion, and wherein the first portion of the snap connector is shaped and sized to snap into the second portion of the snap connector, thereby attaching the pet toy main member to the pet toy secondary members.
- 47. The device of claim 41, wherein the first portion of a snap connector includes a socketed portion, and the second portion of a snap connector includes a mating protrusion, and wherein

the first portion of the snap connector is shaped and sized to snap onto the second portion of the snap connector, thereby attaching the pet toy main member to the pet toy secondary members.

- 55. The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 21, wherein the house pet is a large dog.
- 56. The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 55, wherein the pet toy device is constructed of a plastic material.
- 57. The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 56, wherein the plastic material is a vinyl material.
- 58. The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 56, wherein the plastic material is a polyethylene material.
- 59. The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 41, wherein the house pet is a large dog.
- 60. The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 59, wherein the pet toy device is constructed of a plastic material.
- 61. The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 60, wherein the plastic material is a vinyl material.
- 62. The pet toy device for a house pet of claim 60, wherein the plastic material is a polyethylene material.

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

The evidence appendix consists of Exhibits A and B:

Exhibit A. The supplemental declaration of Julie Theel of August 28, 2009 which has the following subexhibits:

Exhibit 1	The Purina Encyclopedia of Dog Care by Amy D. Shojai
Exhibit 2	Vet on Call edited by Matthew Hoffman
Exhibit 3	Fax from Aspen Pet re License Agreement
Exhibit 4	Email from G. Hirschberg re marketing Julie Theel's toy
Exhibit 5	Email from J. Rudalevige (Petco) re interest in product line
Exhibit 6	Customer feedback
Exhibit 7	Marketing Survey results (14)
Exhibit 8	Rip Roarin' Fun-nies by Pet Generation flyer

Exhibit B. The Rule 1.132 affidavit of Julie Theel of May 20, 2002 in United States application 10/154,127, now US Patent 6,623,328.

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

There are no exhibits in the related proceedings appendix.

XL JURISDICTIONAL STATEMENT

The Board has jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. 134(a). On January 6, 2009 the Examiner mailed a final rejection setting a three-month shortened statutory period for response. The time for responding to the final rejection expired on April 6, 2009. Rule 134. A notice of appeal and a request for a three-month extension of time under Rule 136(a) was filed on July 3, 2009.

The time for filing an appeal brief is two months after the filing of a notice of appeal. Bd.R. 41.37(c). The time for filing an appeal brief expires September 3, 2009. The appeal brief has the filing date of August 28, 2009.

Respectfully submitted for appellant,

Dated: 8/2%/2

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17220 Newhope Street, Suite 127

Fountain Valley, CA 92708

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

APPLICATION OF	
THEEL, Julie	
SERIAL NUMBER: 10/668,04	9
FILED: 09/22/2003	
TITLE: DISMEMBERABLE C. APPEASEMENT DEVICE AN	
SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARA	TION
STATE OF Calif.) } ss
COUNTY OF Orange)) ss)

My name is Julie Theel, I am making this declaration and affidavit. I being duly sworn, do hereby depose and say as follows:

Julic Theel, who has owned many house dogs over the past 30 years, has invented a "rip apart" dog toy to prevent dogs from destroying toys within days of first receiving them. As the owner of three beloved dogs ranging from 15 pounds to 95 pounds, Julie has spent countless dollars in weekly purchases to replace the toys her dogs destroy. All three of her dogs derive great enjoyment from playing with plush toys—the only problem is that after several days of play, or in some cases only hours, the toys are often ripped to shreds, reduced to mere carcasses, with her delighted dogs sitting in a messy sea of stuffing.

After many years of suffering hours of "stuffing clean-up" and commiserating with fellow dog owners over the problem of destroyed toys, Julie came up with the idea for a toy that dogs could truly "rip apart." Julie discovered that Velcro® attachments were the answer, as they allow dogs to feel as if they are ripping something apart without actually ruining the toy. After creating prototypes and finding a manufacturer, she took her "rip apart" dog toy to market.

The response has been overwhelming. Never before has such a toy been created specifically for dogs, as evidenced by an extensive patent search, as well as by the testimony of many long-time industry players and storeowners in the attached Market Survey. Upon introduction in Anaheim, Calif. at the "Superzoo Dog Industry Show" in July 2002, followed by the biggest show, "H.H. Backer Dog Industry Show" in Chicago in October 2002, Julie was immediately approached for licensing by the two biggest dog toy manufacturers. These manufacturers both expressed the desire to have the rights to introduce these toys as their latest and greatest new dog toy.

Additional testimony to the favorable response to the idea for a dismemberable dog toy is that in 2003, Petco, one of the largest chains of pet supply stores, approached Julie with the desire to merchandise the toys in their boutique concept stores, where they claimed they were only placing "new and unique items."

The customer response to Julie's "rip apart" dog toy has been remarkable as well. Julie has received numerous emails from grateful customers thanking her for creating a toy that can withstand the chewing and ripping that occurs during dog play:

"We have purchased your rip apart toys for our Akita, and have found that the ripping noise of the Velcro has kept her from destroying it! We purchased it thinking that it would not last long. We were surprised when it lasted, and became a game for our Akita to rip the pieces apart, and then wait for us to put it back together. We have yet to experience any of the pieces being torn apart at the seams!" Sandy Arbogast, Akita Rescue of Western New York

"Hi Julie, I received your wonderful toys today. I can't tell you how much we all love them."- Martnel Bonaquisti, owner of Dogma Pet Boutique, Irvine, CA

"I was given one of your Rippys toys as a gift for my Cocker Spaniel, she absolutely loves it and I would like to find out how to purchase more of your innovative products."

-Thank you, J Murray, Mesa AZ

"We love the new tiger and monkey – sold a monkey before I even had them out of the box! Your product is great!" – Amber at Healthy Pet

"Mark's dog (Railey) loves your toys! It's his new favorite. Mark calls it 'Railey's 'headless' monkey."" – Jill at Railey's Leash & Treat

"I LOVE THESE TOYS!!! They are awesome for puppies. We have malamute puppies and they are wonderful for inspiring confidence and finding out who in the litter has the prey drive." Cindy O'Malley, a longtime breeder of Alaskan Malamutes

"Your toys are truly unique – haven't come across any like them in my ongoing extensive search." – Carmen Laurin, owner of Pet Perspectives, a business that writes and produces illustrated memorials and stories for clients about their pets

It is because of this overwhelming response, along with the licensing requests which depend on the acceptance of a patent, and the fact that she truly believes that there was a long-felt need for a "rip apart" dog toy made specifically for dogs that solves the problem of destroyed toys and other items (born out of a chewing, ripping need common to all dogs), that Julie hopes to be granted protection of her idea.

- 1. Dogs have a chewing need that can turn destructive if not given a proper outlet.
 - "Canine chewing is normal, natural behavior for dogs and cannot—should not—be eliminated. It is up to owners to provide their pets with appropriate and safe chewing outlets to satisfy these doggy cravings" (—Amy D. Shojan, The Purina Encyclopedia of Dog Care, pg.109)
 - "...destructive behavior has no age limits...they are not being spiteful or trying to punish you ...they're just finding the most convenient outlet for their emotions." (-Vet on Call, pg.142)
 - "One reason dogs chew when they're upset is because that's their way of relieving tension, and also of passing the time. One of the best ways to stop a destructive dog who enjoys chewing is to give him acceptable alternatives" (-Steven Appelbaum, animal behaviorist, Vet on Call, pg. 143)
 - "Dogs don't show emotion the way people do...they experience the same feelings, such as anxiety, frustration, and boredom. They can't tell you when they're upset, but they can show you sometimes with destructive behavior." (-Vet on Call, pg. 142)

- "While dogs often use destructive behavior as a way of defusing stress, they also do it simply because they have more energy than they know what to do with" (-Vet on Call, pg.142)
- "...unlike people, dogs don't outgrow the habit of mouthing and gnawing." (-Amy D. Shojan, The Purina Encyclopedia of Dog Care, pg. 108)
- 2. There is a long-felt need for proper outlets for this instinctual chewing need.
 - Note: See Market Survey: The market survey attests to a long-felt need for a proper "ripping outlet"
 - Julie's own experiences as a dog owner, and the many, irreparably ripped apart dog toys that she has had to replace over the years
 - Feedback from the "dog community" at Dog Industry Shows (Superzoo, Anaheim, CA, July 2002, and H.H. Backer, Chicago, October, 2002)
 - Julie's retailers' testimony that the most common complaint among dog owners is a ripping apart/destruction of household items
- 3. A "rip apart" dog toy provides a proper outlet for this chewing need.
 - Note: See Market Survey: Dogs seem to be appeased after ripping the main parts apart
 - Julie's own experience: Her dogs no longer irreparably destroy their toys, but rather seem delighted after ripping heads, arms and legs off, and she can then simply stick the toy back together.
- 4. A "rip apart" toy has never been created, marketed, or patented specifically for dogs before
 - · Patent search evidences this
 - Note: See Market Survey: Store owners and managers, most of whom have been in the business many years and could be considered experts by way of experience, testify that they have never seen a "rip apart" dog toy before
 - Petco, the largest chain of dog supply stores, proposed placement of the toys in their new "boutique" sections of their stores where they are merchandising only new and unique items
- 5. Although "rip apart" toys exist for humans, these toys are a completely different toy from "rip apart" toys for dogs
 - "Rip apart" dog toys:
 - -constructed to be ripped apart with the teeth
 - -made in a way that provide an outlet for appeasement of the instinctual, inherent chewing, rip-apart-with-the-teeth need, which is exclusive to dogs (humans don't normally rip their shoes or furniture apart with their teeth to alleviate frustration, boredom, or stress)
 - -dogs can't comprehend stress after a "bad call" in a ball game so the dog toys are not devised for this release
 - -dogs don't rip apart the toys for any educational means, or so that they can enjoy putting them back together, so the toys are not devised for dogs to put them back together
 - "Rip apart" human toys:
 - -often meant to be taken apart so that they can be put back together as an end use -often meant to be educational
 - -can be used to release stress humans might feel after a "bad call" in a ballgame

-not meant to alleviate a prey or chewing instinct

- Humans don't have a long-felt need for a toy that will help humans eliminate
 destructive chewing, or any oral behavior toward shoes, clothes, or furniture, however
 dogs do need such a toy to provide this outlet, and "rip apart" toys made for dogs
 provide this outlet
- 6. Toys that are created specifically for dogs, differ from toys that are made for humans
 - Size: with special consideration for the largest sized dogs' mouths, i.e. no small parts, tennis ball sized or larger, so as not to be swallowed
 - * Shape: with special consideration for what would entice dogs, usually animal shapes to simulate prey, or balls to encourage chasing
 - Color: animal behaviorists claim pink and orange are most enticing to dogs
 - Sound: voice boxes to simulate animal/prey sounds are especially desirable to dogs, as well as rattles and squeakers
 - Safety: no plastic eyes, embroidered facial features are best, no toxic materials, must be washable, no removable metal pieces
 - Velcro® that is strong enough to give dogs enough resistance to simulate "destruction" but soft enough to avoid abrasion of the gums, and always rounded at corners so as not to "poke" dogs mouths
 - Proper warnings on hang tags for dogs
- 7. "Rip apart" dog toys are non-obvious...they are new, unique, answer a problem, and upon introduction were suddenly in great demand
 - The two top competing dog toy companies have each approached me with requests to enter into a licensing agreement for the "rip apart" dog toys IF a patent is granted (without a patent they will go forward without my consent or control, "We have a keen interest in your concept..."Mr.Gary Hirschberg, president, Vo-Toys, in an email to Julie, attached).
 - The largest chain of dog supply stores, Petco, proposed merchandising the toys in their new high-end concept stores which only feature, according to buyer for Petco, Ms. Joanna Rudalevige, the most new and unique items.

In a Marketing Survey that was sent to approximately 70 pet shop owners who sell dog supplies, the results thus far of the Pet Generation Marketing Survey have been as follows:

1. For the Question, "Have you ever seen a "rip apart" dog toy, prior to the Rip Roarin Funnies?"

All 14 respondents said "NO"

2. For the Question, "Do your customers often complain that their dogs destroy or rip apart toys or things they are not supposed to?

All 14 respondents said "YES"

3. For the question, "Do you feel that the "Rip-Roarin Fun-nies" rip apart toys provide a good outlet for that rip apart need?

All 14 Respondents said "YES"

4. For the question, "Do dogs rip apart the individual pieces or do they seem appeased, at least temporarily, after removing the Velcro attachments?"

Several different responses were generated:

- 3 Respondents were unsure, 4 stated that some dogs do, some do not, 5 stated that the dogs are at least temporarily appeased, 2 stated that dogs still ripped apart individual pieces.
- 5. For the Question, "Do you feel that there was a long-felt need for a toy that dogs could be allowed to "rip apart" (and it could then be put back together!)
 - 13 Respondents said yes, and 1 Respondent was unsure
- 6. For the Question asking for the "features that make the Rip Roarin' Fun-nies especially well. suited for does.

Respondents answered with, "Cute," Soft, Velcro, Fun, Size, Velcro attachments, Small size of the Parts, No strings or plastic eyes for dogs to swallow, Only come apart by pulling apart, Hide a Treat Option, Sound of the Velcro, Fact they can rip it apart, Washable, Noise, Cute Shapes, strong Velero, quality fleece, Velero Sound. The most common response referred to attributes of the Velcro.

- 7. For the Question, "What kind of feedback had you had from your customers regarding the "Rip Roarin Fun-nies"
 - 13 Respondents reported that they received Positive Feedback
 - 1 Respondent reported that they received negative Feedback due to Opening of Back Seam.
- 8. For the Question, "In comparison to the other dog toys your store sells, please rank the sale: of the Rip Roarin Fun-nies"
 - 4 Respondents reported that they are not selfing as well as other toys.
 - 7 Respondents reported that they are selling the same as the other toys
 - 3 Respondents reported that they were selling better than the other toys

I testify that the above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Julie Theel

5-21-09

EXHIBIT LIST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF JULIE THEEL

Exhibit 1	The Purina Encyclopedia of Dog Care by Amy D. Shojai
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A COMPLETE A-TO-Z GUIDE, FROM CANINE CARE AND PERSONALITY TRAITS TO BREED CHARACTERISTICS!



AMY 1. SIIOJAI FOREWORD BY BRIAN KILCOMMONS

THE PURINA

ENCYCLOPEDIA of DOG CARE

AMY D. SHOJAI

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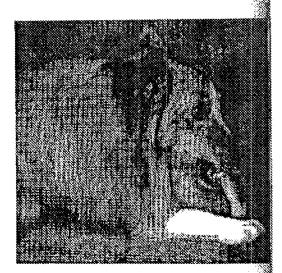
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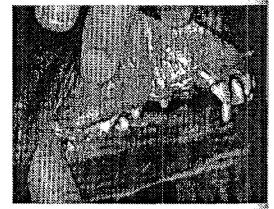
Unewing

Just like human babies, puppies put things in their mouths as a way to extruct world. Particularly when teething, young dogs chew objects to relate discomfort. But unlike people, dogs don't outgrow the habit of moutand gnawing.

Your dog doesn't have hands and instead uses her mouth. Canina mouth-oriented creatures with an incredible ability to control the intensi



Dogs love to chew (Pieso credic Amy D. Shojai)



Chewing can wear or break toeth (Photo credit: Ralsom Purina Company)





Chewing sticks can cause problems (Photo credit: Betry Stowe)

their bite. Modern pet dogs use their powerful teeth and jaws to pick up and carry things, to eat, for defense, and for recreational chewing. Gnawing objects simply feels good to dogs.

This gral fixation tends to get dogs into trouble, however, because they aren't always particular about the objects they target. Canine chemine not only can damage your property, but can injure the dog when teeth are broken or an object is swallowed (see swallowed objects and periodontal disease).

Items that carry their beloved owner's scent—like leather shoes—are often targeted, but nothing is sacred. Does who are bored and have nothing else to do tend to be problem chewers.

Chewing is normal, natural behavior for dogs and cannot—should not—be eliminated. It is up to owners to provide their pers with appropriate and safe chewing ourlets to satisfy these doggy cravings.

Avoid offering objects that may confuse your dog, if she's not to chew your new shoes, don't offer the old ones; dogs may not be able to tell the difference. Choose instead a dog toy sold in grocery or pet stores. The key to solving problems is to reduce your dog's opportunities to make mistakes. Don't leave tempting items scattered about the house, and confine your dog to a "safe" tone when you aren't there to supervise her activity. When you catch



her chewing a forbidden object, tell her "no" and take it away (or remove her from the table leg), and provide her with an allowed alternative. A product like Birter Apple applied to dangerous objects, like electrical coxis, will help train your dog to leave forbidden items alone.

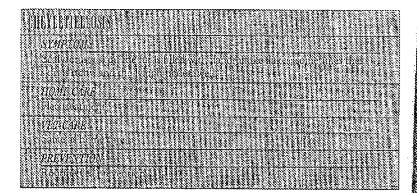
Never offer your dog bones to chew on. Raw bones are unsanitary, and both raw and cooked bones can splinter under the dog's assault. Swallowed fragments could cause lethal internal trauma by puncturing or blocking the gastrointestinal tract.

A number of commercial chew objects are available, including a variety of flavored rawhide toys. Rawhide is fine in moderation, but large dogs tend not only to chew, but to eat the things. In excess, rawhide can interfere with sound nutrition when your dog eats these treats instead of her food. They can also cause construction and sometimes blockage if large enough pieces are swallowed.

Commercial hard rubber chew objects are available in sizes and even chicken and liver flavors to suit nearly every dog. The Nylabone and Gumabone products are excellent, offering a nearly indestructible source of chewing delight.

Chevletiellosis

Also called Cheyletiella dermatitis, this condition in dogs is usually caused by a mire called Cheyletiella yasguri. The mite lives on the surface of the dog's skin and causes a contagious disorder that tends to be limited to scaling and crusting of the skin. Typically, the dog's fur looks filled with dandruff. The skin may be itchy or not, and occasionally the lymph nodes will also swell. Some dogs may barbor the mite without showing any signs, yet spread the disease. Any





Vet On Call

The Best Home Remedies for Keeping Your Dog Healthy

From the Editors of

Edited by Matthew Hoffman

Veterinary consultant: Christine L. Wilford, D.V.M., is a veterinarian in private practice in Scattle, Washington, and the "Veterinary News" columnist for American Kennel Club Gazette.



Rodale Press, Inc. Emmaus, Pennsylvania



Notice

This book is intended as a reference volume only, not as a medical manual. The information given here is designed to help you make informed decisions about your pet's health. It is not intended as a substitute for any treatment that may have been prescribed by your veterinarian. If you suspect that your pet has a medical problem, we arge you to seek competent medical help.

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----Our Purpose-

To explore, colubrate, and stand in awe before the special relationship between us and the animals who share our lives.



Destructiveness

any dogs, from the most refined poodle to the heartiest mutt, seem to have a secret side. When you're home your dog is always on his best behavior. But when you leave for work or go to bed, his personality changes and he shows his dark side—as you later discover when you find your taitered shirt, chewed shoes, and dug-up plants.

It's normal for puppies to chew, so your first task, after buying a food bowl, a tiny collar, and a chew toy, is to get your possessions off the floor and out of jaw-range. But destructive behavior has no age limits. Some older dogs, after years of good behavior, suddenly seem to forget their lessons and go on a rampage. They're not being spiteful or trying to punish you for leaving them at home all day. They're just finding the must convenient outlet for their emotions.

Don't Leave Me

Dogs don't show their emotions the way people do, so we sometimes forget that they experience many of the same feelings, such as anxiety, frestration, and boredom. They can't tell you when they're upset, but they can show you—sometimes with destructive behavior.

It's not a coincidence that dogs are usually at their most destructive when they're left alone, says Daniela Ortner, an animal behaviorist in Los Angeles, California. Until humans came on the scene, dogs always lived in packs, and they don't like spending time alone. In your dog's eyes, you're part of his pack, and when you leave the house, he may feel abandoned. As his anxiety mounts he may experience the canine equivalent of temporary insanity and begin an-

nihilating everything within reach. It's his way of working out bad feelings. For more information on separation anxiety see pages 158 to 159.

Unless you spend your days at home, there's no easy way to monitor your dog's goings-on. It takes time and patience, but there are ways to help him cope with being on his own.

Enroll your dog in doggie day ears. The extra attention will make him less anxious-and less destructive.





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Find him a job. Dogs who are confident and secure are much less likely to become destructive when they're alone. A great way to boost your dog's ego is to give him something to do—anything from canine sports like flyball to visiting hospitals or nursing homes. Also, active dogs are tired dogs, so they're more likely to sleep than look for trouble when you're gone, says Patricia McConnell, Ph.D., a certified animal behaviorist in Black Earth, Wisconsin.

Dogs need special training for therapy-dog work. That's not a bad thing, because many dogs enjoy obedience training, and especially the praise that comes from doing a good job.

Keep his jaws busy. One reason dogs chew when they're upset is because that's their way of relieving tension, and also of passing the time. One of the best ways to stop a destructive dog who enjoys chewing is to give him acceptable alternatives. like chew toys or tennis balls, says Steven Appelbaum, an animal behaviorist in Northridge, California. A good choice is the Kong toy, says Dr. McConnell. Made of stout

rubber with a hollow cavity inside, these are designed to hold small amounts of food, like theese or a spoonful of peanut butter. Dogs can happily spend hours just trying to get the food out of the hole.

When choosing chew toys, avoid discarded socks or shoes. Your dog can't tell the difference between old, rejected slippers and brand-new pumps. If you let him think one shoe is acceptable, he'll conclude that all shoes are fair game.

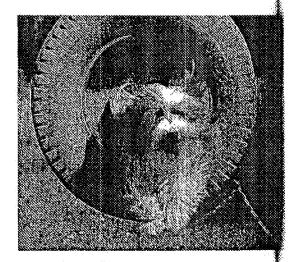
Use a deterrent. Some dogs have a favorite object—anything from a piano leg to the corner of a door frame—and will keep returning to thew the life out of it. Spraying the object with something that tastes or smells bad, such as Bitter Apple or citronells, available in per supply stores, will help keep them away.

Another approach is to booby-trap the things your dog chews—for example, by putting coins in an empty soda can and tying it to the object of his desire. When he grabs it, the noise will startle him and he may think twice about chewing it next time.

Give him his own space. Dogs naturally gravitate to small, enclosed, den-like spaces, especially when they're anxious. In fact, many dogs feel insecure when they have the run of the house—they don't know what to do with all that space. Try confining your dog in a small room or gradually get him used to being crated when you're not home. This can make him feel much safer and more secure, so he's less likely to run artick.

Sabotage his digging. Some dogs get destructive in the house; others love tearing up the yard. It's extremely hard to discourage a dog that digs digging, but you can make it harder for him by burying lava rock in the area, since he won't like the way it feels when he hits it, says Appelbaum. Or try cutting his nails so that digging feels uncomfortable—but don't cut them so short that you damage the sensitive quick.

Drop by occasionally. If you're lucky enough to live close to work, you can always drop by at lunchtime. When you visit your dog during the day, his isolation is interrupted, and



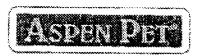
This bearded collie is burning tremendous amounts of energy. The more he plays and exercises the less likely he is to be distressed and destructive.

he'll be less likely to be anxious when you're gone. When you're not able to get away from work, you might want to arrange with a neighbor or a professional dog sitter to drop by your home during the day. Giving your dog someone to play with, even if it'e only for a few minutes, will help keep him entertained while taking his mind off your belongings, says Ortner.

Wear him out. While dogs often use destructive behavior as a way of defusing stress, they also do it simply because they have more energy than they know what to do with. A good solution is to give him a lot of exercise just before you leave in the morning and again when you get home at night, says Dr. McConnell. A dog who's used up all his energy is much less likely to be destructive.



Some dogs have been bred to work for hours a day without rest, such as Border coilies, Siberian huskies (left), flat-coat retrievers and Airedales. They have energy they need to burn, and tend to be destructive when they're kept inside with nothing ap do.



Julie Theel	363	on: Kelsey Baker, Exe	cutive Assistant
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Aspen Pet Products, Inc. 4735 N. Florence Street Denver, CO 80238

November 11, 2002

Julie Theel, President Pet Generation 1280 Bison Suite: 89-263 Newport Beach, CA 92660

Re: "Rip Rosnin' Fun-nies

Dear Julie:

On the basis of our telephone conversation, we are pleased to advise you that Aspen Pet Products, Inc. ("Aspen") is interested in entering into a definitive Exclusive License Agraement (the "Agreement") with Pet Generation ("Inventor") with respect to the Rip Roarin Fun-nies (the "Product"). We understand that the Product could potentially be the subject of a utility patent in the US, which has been filed by the inventor. This letter of interest sets forth the key terms of our proposal for an Agreement, as follows:

- 1. <u>Terms of Agreement</u>. The principal terms of the Agreement will be as follows:
- a. Inventor will grant to Aspen the exclusive right to manufacture, distribute and sell the Product worldwide. Aspen will have full rights to copyrights and trademarks related to the Product.
 - b. Inventor will receive a 5% royalty on net sales of the Product, payable within 45 days of the close of each calendar quarter, along with a report of sales by SKU. This royalty structure is based on issuance of a broad patent protection to repel direct competition.
 - c. The larm of the Agreement will be for the marketable life of the Product.

- 2. Access to information. Immediately following acceptance of this letter, inventor will provide Aspen and its representatives access to all design concepts, prototypes, samples, patent applications, patent searches and registrations (if applicable), and other information of inventor relating to the design of the Product to enable Aspen to complete its investigation of it's marketability. Any proprietary or confidential information of inventor disclosed to Aspen in the course of its investigation will be held in confidence by Aspen and returned to the inventor if an Agreement between both parties is not reached.
- 3. Expenses. Each party to the Agreement will pay all of its own expenses.
- 4. Cooperation and Exclusive Dealing. Inventor and Aspen will cooperate in good faith and expeditiously to determine the validity of the Product. Inventor agrees not to offer to license any rights to manufacture, distribute or sell the Product, and not to solicit, negotiate, accept or enter into any agreement with any third party with respect to the Product (including, without limitation, any agreement for the license, manufacture, sale, distribution or supply of the Product), until the expiration of 90 days from the execution date of this letter or such earlier date as the parties mutually agree that an Agreement cannot be reached.
- 5. Nandisclosure/Publicity. Each party agrees that it will not, without the prior written consent of the other party, disclose publicity or to any third party the terms and conditions of this letter or the subsequent negotiations between the parties, except to the extent required by law or as may be required by Aspen in connection with determining the cost of the Product.
- 6. <u>Numbinding Agreement.</u> This letter of interest is intended to provide a basis for the preparation of a definitive Exclusive License Agreement. Until such agreement has been prepared and duly authorized, executed and delivered by both parties, name of the provisions of this letter shall be birding on either party with the exception of the agreements and obligations contained in numbered paragraphs 2 through 5 above.
 - Acceptance. This letter of interest may be accepted in writing by inventor until November 19, 2002, but will terminated if not accepted by the close of business on that date.

"S"

If the foregoing is satisfactory, please evidence your acceptance of this proposal by signing and returning to us the enclosed copy of this letter. It is understood that upon your acceptance, this letter will constitute a letter of interest to negotiate in good faith to complete a definitive Exclusive License Agreement on the terms set forth above.

Very truly yours,

ASPEN PET PRODUCTS, INC.

Robert J. Kirch, Chief Executive Officer

ACCEPTED AND AGREED
Date:
PET GENERATION
Su.
8y:
Julie Theel, President

Julie Theel

From:

"Gary Hirschberg" < GaryH@Vo-Toys.com>

To:

<Julie@petgeneration.com>

Sent:

Thursday, October 17, 2002 10:19 AM

Subject:

conversation at Backer Show

Julie,

I attempted to reach you by telephone after the Chicago Backer show. I left a voicemail. I thought it might be easier to reach you by email in the absence of anyone manning the telephone. If you recall, we had a brief discussion at your booth about the patent you have developed for partitioning toys with velore. We are very keen on the concept and we would like to pursue a licensing agreement with the patent and develop our own designs. We would be interested in marketing some of yours as well but if you chose to go at that alone, we would be content to sell our own program. I am not sure what direction you are interested in pursuing but it would seem to me that the first and most realistic attempt should be to collect royalties from someone else's efforts to offset your upfront expenses. If you would like to pursue this further, I welcome hearing from you to discuss in more detail. I can be reached as follows: email or at 1 800 272-0088.

Julie Theel

From:

<info@petgeneration.com>

To:

<juliatheel@cox.net>

Sent: Subject: Wednesday, January 15, 2003 2:26 PM Web Site Inquiries from Wholesale Form

Do not reply to this email. Create a new email to respond.

Name: joanna rudalevige Company Name: petco Address: 9125 rehco rd

City: san diego State: ca Zip: 92121 Country: USA

Phone: 838-453-7845 x3545

Fax:

Email: joannar@petco.com Type of Business; Retail Pet Store

How would you like to be contacted?; Email

Comments: interested in your product line ... would like to see price list

thanks joanna JULIENS
WE COVE THE NEW TIGER &

MONKEY & SOLD A MONKEY

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Phone: (288) 946-9289/Fex: (289) 948-0282/Fex: (289) 948-0282/Fex:

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Subject: Pot Generation Contact Form From: info@petgeneration.com Acc Opte: Fri, March 21, 2003 6:03 pm

To info@pergeneration.com

Priority: Normal

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Monail: Temalina sa ameritemb. Get

2004

Name: Cincy O. Molley Intersted in: Riprosing Pameies

Comments: I LOTE THESE TOTS: If They are avesome for puppies. We have malamate puppies and they are wonderful for inspiring confidence and finding out who is the librar has the pray drive. Do you have any discounts for large orders? Thanks

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Julie Theel

From:

"Carmen Laurin" <calaurin@shaw.ca>

To:

<juiietheel@cox.net>

Sent:

Monday, December 09, 2002 2:46 PM

Subject:

Rip Roarin' Fun-nies toys

Hi Julie (I think that's the name I heard on your phone answering machine),

I am the owner of Pet Perspectives. I write and produce unique illustrated memorials and stories for clients about their pots and for friends/family as gifts to pet owners. Like you, my business venture is fairly new.

As a complementary add-on to my product, I am interested in a sole distributorship of unique high quality pet items for British Columbia. I came upon your Rip Roarin' Fun-nies toys in another site, and further search brought me to YOUR site.

Your toys are truly unique — haven't come across any like them in my ongoing extensive search. Would you be interested in marketing the toys in British Columbia, if you are not already in stores here (again, I hadn't seen your toys until today).

Hook forward to hearing from you. In the meantime, congratulations on a unique product!

Carmen Laurin Pet Perspectives Bowser, BC

Phone: 250-757-8308

Market Survey



"Rip Rocerin' Fun-nies" (Fut Bureation ...the Velcro® attached dog foys, that can be "ripped apart" and put back 1. Have you ever seen a "rip aper" dog toy, prior to the "Rip Roarin" Fun-nies""? together 2. Do your customers often complain that their dogs destroy or rip apart toys or things they 3. Do you feel that the "Rip Roar in Fun-nies" rip-apart toys provide a good outlet for that 4. Do clogs rip apart the individual pieces, or do they seem appeared, at least temporarily. after regioning the Veicro® attachments? to to to the will set to CL 5. Do you rest there was a long-felt need for a toy that dags could be allowed to "rip apart" (and it could then be put back together)? USU MULADOS TOVE ANOT 6. Name the features, if any, that make the "Rip Roorin" Fun-kies" especially, well suited for 1999 IV STICACION SOVE SHE DOUGAD! SHEVELLED 7. What land JATE adduck have you had from your customers regarding the "Rip Roarin' Funnies"? JALLY JOUR YHILM S. In comparison to the other dig toys your store sells, please rank the sales of the "Rip Roarin' Fun-nice^{me}: not selling as well as the other toys X selling the same as the other toys selling better than the other toys 9. Out of the different "Rip Rourin' Fun-nies" designs, which is your best seller? 10010011 10. What design/character, would you like to see introduced next into the family of "Rip Rocrin" 11. Any additional thoughts or comments? JULA Address: 14242 Store Telephone Number: 425 Signed: (100 17/7/2 / 2001

Title Manager We'REALLY appreciate your input! Thank you so very much! Pat Seneration, LLC

PLEASE FAX BACK TO 949-425-8756

1280 Bison, Suite B9-263 * Newport Beach, CA 92660 * (866) 204-2639 * F (948) 425-8756

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We REALLY appreciate your input! Thank you so very much!

Pet Generation, LLC

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Signed Voth Stones
Title: Co-council

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Pet Generation, U.C.

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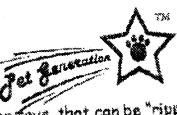
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J.L. MIRE ASSOCIATES FEXT710-245-9761

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Market Survey



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We REALLY appreciate your input! Thank you so very much!

Per Generation, LLC

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Narket Survey
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We REALLY appreciate your input! Thank you so very much! Pet Generation, LLC

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Market Survey "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies" Je 3 ...the Velcro® attached dog foys, that can be "ripped apart" and put back together 1. Have you ever seen a "rip apart" dog toy, prior to the "Rip Roarin Fun-nies" "? 2. Do your customers often complain that their dogs destroy or rip apart toys or things they are not supposed to? <u>Ves</u> 3. Do you feel that the "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies" rip-apart toys provide a good cirilet for that rip apart "need"?____ 4. Do dogs rip apart the individual pieces, or do they seem appeared, at least temporarily. after removing the Velcro® attachments? 125 5. Do you feel there was a long-felt need for a toy that dogs could be allowed to "rip apart" (and it could then be put back together)? VPS 6. Name the features, if any, that make the "Rip Roppin' Fun-nies";" especially well suited for sogs the tack they can Rid it AROS 7. What kind of feedback have you had from your customers regarding the "Rip Roarin" Funniesmy none yet - they seem to like the concept 8. In comparison to the other dog toys your store sells, please rank the sales of the "Bip not selling as well as the other toys Just started selling these selling the s Roarin' Fun-nies*** _____ selling the same as the other toys __ selling better than the other toys 9. Out of the different "Rip Rowin' Fun-nies" designs, which is your best seller? Blue Mod (OU) 10. What design/character would you like to see introduced next into the family of "Rip Roarin" Fun-nice "> DINOSAUCS II. Any additional thoughts or commente? Stone: Achberny of Chrune Rohallor-Address 4705

We REALLY appreciate your input! Thank you so very much! Pet Generation, LLC

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Store Telephone Number: 42

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Market Survey



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We REALLY appreciate your input! Thank you so very much! Pet Severation, LLC

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We REALLY appreciate you input! Thank you so very much!
Pet Cereration, LLC

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FINALLY!. A toy your dog can really rriPP apart! A WHOLE NEW CONCEPT IN TOYS!





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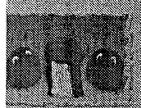
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Did you ever think you'd see the day when you would laugh and cheer as your dog excitedly rips the head, arms, and leas off of his brand new toy? Well that day is here! Introducing the "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies," a truly unique, patent pending, fun new type of toy for dogs that have Velcro^mattachinemis to allow a dag to really feel like he is Proping the toy apart, and a human companion cair simply stick it back together for more funi

The benefits of this new concept in toys are manual...

- Fewer needle and thread surgeries" perform on poor, dismembered toys!
- Less money wasted on expensive toys that ruined when they are ripped to pieces!
 - A healthy, wonderful alternative to that ne pair of shees when teaching your dog wh not to tear apart
 - Terrific ripping noise that drives dogs crazy with excitement!
 - Treats may be hidden in either of t ball designs - more fun!
 - Multiple_toys in one!
 - Squeaks, rattles, and unusu noises
 - Happiness in knowing you are providing a fun NEW source of entertaipment for your beloved dog!

Finally a toy that pleases and ammede everyons . . .jkat den't forget t: share with your dog

Eight great designs now. with more in the works!

Contact us Pel Generation, LLC 1280 Bison, Suite 89-263 Newport Beach, CA 92660 (Toll Free (\$56) 204-2529 * Fax (949) 425-8756 into@petgeneration.com, www.petgeneration.com

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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2002

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Exeminer Name	J. Williams	نين
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

THEEL, Julie
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SERIAL NUMBER 10-154-217)
FILED: 5/20/02
TTTLE: DISMEMBERABLE CANINE) APPEASEMENT DEVICE AND METHOD)

Examiner Jamila Williams whose telephone number is 703-305-3312 Examiner Supervisor, Derris Banks 703-308-1745 703-305-3579 fax for regular communications 703-305-3579 fax for After Final communications

AMENDMENTS AND REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

(OA Dated 11/20/2002)

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At Line 17, page 4 after the third paragraph ending with "Fig 5. Slack cord can be kept inside a hollow portion of a member 148 such as a tail member." please add the following sentence,

"The cartoon character can also comprise the form of a hamburger having a patty piece, an upper bun piece and a lower bun piece."

IN THE CLAIMS

- 1. A dismemberable house dog [pet] appeasement and training device to prevent destruction of household articles comprising:
- a figure formed from a main member having a fabric exterior and an interface surface, and plurality of secondary members having a fabric exterior and an interface surface, at least one secondary member attached to the main member at an interface surface by an attachment means, the attachment means allowing reattachment between interface surfaces of members,

the main member and secondary members connecting to form a figure [of predetermined shape], the figure capable of being non-destructively dismembered by a house dog [canine], and

capable of reassembly by a user, wherein [whereby a user can repeatedly allow] a house dog [pet such as a canine to] rends apart said members to appease himself [the pet] and simulate destruction of the figure, said members sized to fit into the mouth of a house dog [domestic animal] and adapted for repeated play in the mouth of a domestic animal, wherein appeasement of the house dog prevents destruction of other articles.

- 7. A dismemberable house dog [pet] appeasement and training device of claim 1 further comprising elastic cord that is disposed between members to automatically restore connection between attachment [connection] means disposed upon interface surfaces, said elastic cord restoring a predetermined configuration of character members.
- 10. A method of appeasing and training a house dog [domestic animal] to prevent destruction of household articles comprising the steps of: forming a main member having a fabric exterior and at least one main member interface surface; forming a plurality of secondary members having a fabric exterior and at least one secondary member interface surface, said main member interface surface and secondary member interface surface capable of repeated nondestructive disconnection and reconnection via attachment means located on all said main member interface surfaces and secondary member interface surfaces, said at least one secondary member attached to the main member by an attachment means at an interface surface, connecting the main member and secondary members at their interface surfaces to form a plush character not resembling household articles [of predetermined configuration and shape]; allowing a house dog [domestic animal such as a canine] to rend apart said members to simulate destruction of the plush character [figure]; reassembling said plush character [figure] by attaching members using the attachment means at the interface surfaces; repeating the last two steps until appearement of the house dog [domestic animal is satisfied]; repeating all steps to train the house dog to limit dismembering behavior to the plush character.
- 12. A method according to claim 10 wherein said attachment means consist of hook and loop tape, said hook portions of tape matedly attachable only to loop portions of tape, said loop portions affixed to said interface surfaces of secondary members [a member] to receive their respective hook portions on said interface surfaces of the main member [another member] to form a connection, said connection configured to allow construction of a philip [predetermined] character.

13. A method according to claim 10 wherein said loop portions are affixed to said interface surfaces of the main member [a member] to receive only their respective hook portions on said interface surfaces of secondary members [another member] to form a connection.

DISCUSSION OF REJECTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 112

Claims 6 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph because the "Specification does not appear to provide support for the limitations of the claims (specifically, a hamburger with upper and lower bun and patty member, as claimed)." The applicant has amended the specification to include support for the claims. No new matter has been entered.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 10, the phrases "a figure of predetermined shape" have been amended to add clarity.

Claim 7, "connection means" is the same as the "attachment means" and is so amended. Claims 12 and 13, the terminology "a member", "another member" and "plurality of secondary members" has been clarified. The ambiguity has been removed. Claims 1 and 10, the phrase "such as" has been removed.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 2, 10-13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '917 to Russell et al. The device of Russell is disclosed as being helpful for relieving stress in individuals like human sports fans (column 1 lines 15-20). The applicant acknowledges that the examiner takes the position that an individual or human constitutes a "domestic animal". The present device is designed for use by a domestic animal, which means a housedog. The term "domestic animal" has been clarified by amendment of claim language. Due to Claim amendment, the references no longer creates prima facie obviousness.

Russell is thus distinguishable. The device of Russell does not relate to house dog training. The present invention prevents destruction of other household articles by training a house dog to satisfy destructive dismembering instincts via the present invention. The emphasis of the present invention allows a house dog a particular item, commonly known as an 'allowed item' for dismembering. It is commonly understood that housedogs learn by repetition. Prior to

the present invention, no such device existed in the present form. Because previous house dog training aids and toys lacked a destructive dismembering outlet for a housedog, dogs remained prone to destructive dismembering behavior.

The Discussion of Related Art in the present application presents the problem to be avoided.

"The natural prey instinct in a canine makes it difficult for dogs to reftain from rending ordinary household items such as furniture, plush animals, shoes and carpet. The natural hunting instinct in a canine is curbed during domestication. The resulting frustration leads to unhealthly fits of destruction."

Russell teaches the use of a dismemberable figure for human entertainment related spectator sports. The device of Russell thus teaches away from use of a dismemberable figure for dog behavior modification. Although the devices share certain structural similarities, they are used for and designed for different purposes.

Long Felt Need

It is there a long felt need to provide dog plush that can be ripped apart and put back together? The Purina Encyclopedia of Dog Care by Amy Shojai attached as Exhibit A, shows the problem of dog damage, but does not suggest providing a dog plush that can be ripped apart and put back together. The Purina Encyclopedia of Dog Care by Amy Shojai suggests various chew toys such as rawhide and tennis balls.

As any house dog owner knows, even well trained dogs have a tendency to rip apart household articles. This is because dogs have an instinct and oral fixation regarding household articles, yet humans do not chew and rip at their shoes and furniture when frustrated.

Has there been a long felt need in the pet toy industry for the product? Carmen Laurin, a prospective customer, stated in an email on 12/9/2002 "Your toys are truly unique -- haven't come across any like and then the in my ongoing extensive research."

To determine the status of the art regarding dog toys, the applicant sent out a market survey to her customers in early February 2003. So far, 13 responses have been received.

1. For the question, "Have you ever seen a "rip apart" dog toy, prior to the "Rip Roarin Funnies"?"

All 13 respondents said "NO"

2. For the question, "Do your customers often complain that their dogs destroy or rip apart toys or things they are not supposed to?

All 13 respondents said "YES"

3. For the question, "Do you feel that the "Rip-Roarin Fun-nies" rip apart toys provide a good outlet for that rip apart need?

All 13 Respondents said "YES"

4. For the question, "Do dogs rip apart the individual pieces or do they seem appeared, at least temporarily, after removing the Veicro attachments?"

Several different responses were generated:

- 3 Respondents were unsure, 3 stated that some dogs do, some do not, 5 stated that the dogs are at least temporarily appeared. 2 stated that dogs still ripped apart individual pieces.
- 5. For the question, "Do you feel that there was a long-felt need for a toy that dogs could be allowed to "rip apart" (and it could then be put back together!)
 - 1 Respondent Said No. 11 Respondents said yes, and 1 Respondent was unsure

Licensing

The applicant has been approached for a license by large vendors such as PETCO (petco.com), Aspen Pet Products (www.aspenpet.com), and Vo Toys (vo-toys.com). The applicant has been discussing licensing agreements with the vendors.

Discussion of Dependent Claims

Claim 3 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '917 to Russell in view of '461 to Fujikawa. In light of the claim amendment to independent claim 1 and 10, applicant suggests that claims 3 and 14 are allowable. The references do not create prima facie obviousness. The snake figure in both '917 to Russell and '461 to Fujikawa do not relate to house dog toys and training aids for house dogs. None of the references cited discussed the central problem of modifying house dog behavior.

Claim 4 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '917 to Russell et al in view of '384 to Billis. Again, in light of the claim amendment to independent claim 1 and 10, applicant suggests that claims 4 and 15 are allowable. The references do not

create prima facic obviousness. The ball figure in both '917 to Russell and '384 to Billis do not relate to house dog toys and training aids. None of the references cited discussed the central problem of modifying house dog behavior.

Claim 6 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '917 to Russell et al in view of '141 to Nakai. Russell in view of Nakai does not create prima facic obviousness. In light of the claim amendment to independent claim 1 and 10, applicant suggests that claims 6 and 17 are allowable. The sandwich figure in both '917 to Russell and '141 to Nakai do not relate to house dog toys and training aids. Nakai provides a training aid for teaching children about cutting fruits and vegetables. Nakai provides a rigid device as opposed to a plush toy. Nakai requires use an implement requiring thumbs that are lacking in house dogs. None of the references cited discussed the central problem of modifying house dog behavior.

Claims 7 and 8, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '917 to Russell et al in view of '100 to Essebaggers et al and further in view of '072 to Dreyer. Russell in view of Essebaggers does not create prima facie obviousness. Again, in light of the claim amendment to independent claim 1 and 10, applicant suggests that claims 7 and 8, 18 and 20 are allowable. Because the references cited do not relate to house dog toys and training aids, applicant suggests that there is no motivation to combine the references. None of the references cited discussed the central problem of modifying house dog behavior.

Claims 8 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '917 to Russell et al in view of '100 to Essebaggers et al and further in view of '216 to Chianese. Russell et al in view of Essebaggers and further in view of Chianese does not create prima facie obviousness. Chianese does not relate to dog toys. Essebaggers does not relate to dog toys. Russell does not relate to dog toys. Because the references cited do not relate to house dog toys and training aids, applicant suggests that there is no motivation to combine the references. None of the references cited discussed the central problem of modifying house dog behavior.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned attorney should you have any questions or comments regarding the office action reply. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter. Respectfully submitted,

Hement Coung, Egg. #45463

Law Offices of Clement Cheng. 17220 Newhope St Ste 127, Fountain Valley, CA 92708-4283 714-825-0555 phone; 714-825-0558 fax

CLEAN COPY OF THE CLAIMS

- (Once amended) A dismemberable house dog appeasement and training device to prevent destruction of household articles comprising:
 - a figure formed from a main member having a fabric exterior and an interface surface, and plurality of secondary members having a fabric exterior and an interface surface, at least one secondary member attached to the main member at an interface surface by an attachment means, the attachment means allowing reattachment between interface surfaces of members.
 - the main member and secondary members connecting to form a figure, the figure capable of being non-destructively dismembered by a house dog, and capable of reassembly by a user, wherein a house dog rends apart said members to appease himself and simulate destruction of the figure, said members sized to fit into the mouth of a house dog and adapted for repeated play in the mouth of a domestic animal, wherein appeasement of the house dog prevents destruction of other articles.
- 8. (Once amended) A dismemberable house dog appeasement and training device of claim 1 further comprising elastic cord that is disposed between members to automatically restore connection between attachment means disposed upon interface surfaces, said elastic cord restoring a predetermined configuration of character members.
- 11. (Once amended) A method of appearing and training a house dog to prevent destruction of household articles comprising the steps of: forming a main member having a fabric exterior and at least one main member interface surface; forming a plurality of secondary members having a fabric exterior and at least one secondary member interface surface, said main member interface surface and secondary member interface surface capable of repeated nondestructive disconnection and reconnection via attachment means located on all said main member interface surfaces and secondary member interface surfaces, said at least one secondary member attached to the main member by an attachment means at an interface surface, connecting the main member and secondary members at their interface surfaces to form a plush character not resembling household articles; allowing a house dog to rend apart said members to simulate destruction of the plush character; reassembling said plush character by attaching members using the attachment means at

- the interface surfaces; repeating the last two steps until appearement of the house dog; repeating all steps to train the house dog to limit dismembering behavior to the plush character.
- 14. (Once amended) A method according to claim 10 wherein said attachment means consist of hook and loop tape, said hook portions of tape materily attachable only to loop portions of tape, said loop portions affixed to said interface surfaces of secondary members to receive their respective hook portions on said interface surfaces of the main member to form a connection, said connection configured to allow construction of a plush character.
- 15. (Once amended) A method according to claim 10 wherein said loop portions are affixed to said interface surfaces of the main member to receive only their respective hook portions on said interface surfaces of secondary members to form a connection.

CLEAN COPY OF THE SPECIFICATION

A monkey or other cartoon animal, so seen in the third embodiment, can be connected by a plurality of cords traveling through a main section and attaching to a tail member. A user can pull the tail member and reassemble the cartoon animal with ease. The user then connects the tail member to the cartoon animal. Fig 5. Slack cord can be kept inside a hollow portion of a member 148 such as a tail member. The cartoon character can also comprise the form of a hamburger having a patty piece, an upper bun piece and a lower bun piece.

Analogously, any other appendage can be used as the terminal point of a plurality of cords. Because cords are connected to each appendage and travel through a hollow portion of the main section, the cords can be adjusted so that all cords allow the same length of travel. This assists a user in reassembly of the device.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

APPLICATION OF	
THEEL, Julie	
SERIAL NUMBER 10-154-217	33
FILED: 5/20/02	
TITLE: DISMEMBERABLE CANINE APPEASEMENT DEVICE AND METHOD	
AFFIDAVIT UNDER RULE 1.132	
STATE OF Calif.	
COUNTY OF Orange	

My name is Julie Theel, I am making this declaration and affidavit. I being duly sworn, do hereby denose and say as follows:

I offer a brief background on why I invented the "rip apart" dog toys in the first place, to also hopefully shed light on why I think I should be granted a patent. I have had many house dogs for over 30 years. I now have three beloved dogs, ranging from 15 pounds to 95 pounds. All three dogs derive great enjoyment out of playing with plush toys — the only problem is, after several days of play (sometimes only hours!), the toys are often ripped to shreds, reduced to "mere carcases," with my delighted dogs sitting in a messy sea of stuffing. For years I have simply surrendered to their rip apart desires, and have spent countless dollars in weekly new toy purchases (not to mention hours of "stuffing clean up"!). I figured that it is better that toys are ripped apart, rather than my shoes and furniture, which are the next sorry victims if my zealous dogs are not provided alternative outlets.

It was after years of commiserating with fellow dog owners over the problem of ripped apart, and thus destroyed, toys, that I came up with the idea for a toy that dogs could truly "rip apart" – or atleast feel as if they are "ripping apart" – without actually destroying the toy! And Velcro® attachments were the answer. So I created some prototypes, found a manufacturer, and took them to market.

The response has been overwhelming. Never before has such a toy been created specifically for dogs (as evidenced by an extensive patent search, as well as by the testimony of many long-time industry players and store owners in the attached Market Survey), and upon introduction first in Anaheim, CA, at the "Superzoo Dog Industry Show" (July, 2002), followed by the biggest show, H.H. Backer Dog Industry Show" in Chicago (October 2002), I was immediately approached for licensing by the two biggest dog toy manufacturers, who both expressed the desire to have the rights to "roll" these toys out as their latest and greatest new dog toy (if I am

not granted a patent, both companies will immediately go forward and mass produce "rip apart toys," effectively putting me out of business since I could unfortunately at this time not be able to compete with their size and abilities).

Additional testimony to the favorable response to my idea is that I recently entered into an agreement with Petco, the largest chain of dog supply stores (certainly experts in the dog business!), to merchandise the toys in their new boutique concept stores, where they claim they are only placing "new and unique items."

It is because of this overwhelming response, along with the licensing requests (which depend on the acceptance of a patent), and the fact that I truly believe it is evidenced that there was a long-felt need for a "rip apart" dog toy, a toy with a different use from any "rip apart" toy made for humans— a toy made specifically for dogs, that solves the problem of destroyed toys and other items (born out of a chewing, ripping need common to all dogs) — that I am hoping to be granted protection of my idea.

- 1. Dogs have a chewing need that can turn destructive if not given a proper outlet.
 - "Canine chewing is normal, natural behavior for dogs and cannot –should not—be
 eliminated. It is up to owners to provide their pets with appropriate and safe chewing
 outlets to satisfy these doggy cravings" (-Amy D. Shojan, The Purina Encyclopedia
 of Dog Care, pg.109)
 - "...destructive behavior has no age limits...they are not being spiteful or trying to
 punish you ...they're just finding the most convenient outlet for their emotions." (Vet on Call, pg.142)
 - "One reason dogs chew when they're upset is because that's their way of relieving tension, and also of passing the time. One of the best ways to stop a destructive dog who enjoys chewing is to give him acceptable alternatives" (-Steven Appelbaum, animal behaviorist, Vet on Call, pg. 143)
 - "Dogs don't show emotion the way people do...they experience the same feelings, such as anxiety, frustration, and boredom. They can't tell you when they're upset, but they can show you – sometimes with destructive behavior." (-Vet on Call, pg. 142)
 - "While dogs often use destructive behavior as a way of defusing stress, they also do it simply because they have more energy than they know what to do with" (-Vet on Call, pg.142)
 - "...unlike people, dogs don't outgrow the habit of mouthing and gnawing." (-Amy D. Shojan, The Purina Encyclopedia of Dog Care, pg. 108)
- 2. There is a long-felt need for proper outlets for this instinctual chewing need.
 - Note: See Market Survey: The market survey attests to a long-felt need for a proper "ripping outlet"
 - My own experiences as a dog owner, and the many, irreparably ripped apart dog toys
 - Feedback from the "dog community" at Dog Industry Shows (Superzoo, Anaheim, CA, July 2002, and H.H. Backer, Chicago, October, 2002)
 - My retailers' testimony that the most common complaint among dog owners is a ripping apart/destruction of household items
- 3. A "rip apart" dog toy provides a proper outlet for this chewing need.

- Note: See Market Survey: Dogs seem to be appeased after ripping the main parts apart
- My own experience: My dogs no longer irreparably destroy their toys, but rather seem delighted after ripping heads, arms and logs off, and I can then simply stick the toy back together.
- 4. A "rip apart" toy has never been created, marketed, or patented specifically for dogs
 - Patent search evidences this
 - Note: See Market Survey: Store owners and managers, most of whom have been in the business many years and could be considered experts by way of experience, testify that they have never seen a "rip apart" dog toy before
 - Petco, the largest chain of dog supply stores, is placing the toys in their new "boutique" sections of their stores where they are merchandising only new and unique items
- Although "rip apart" toys exist for humans, these toys were patented for a totally different use than the use we would like to patent for "rip apart" dog toys.
 - "Rip apart" dog toys:
 - -meant to ripped apart with the teeth
 - -meant to provide an outlet for appeasement of the instinctual, inherent chewing, rip-apart-with-the-teeth need, which is exclusive to dogs (humans don't normally rip their shoes or furniture apart with their teeth to alleviate frustration, boredom, or stress)
 - -dogs can't comprehend stress after a "bad call" in a ball game and so do not use the toys for this release
 - -dogs don't rip apart the toys for any educational means, or so that they can enjoy putting them back together as an end use
 - "Rip apart" human toys:
 - -often meant to be taken apart so that they can be put back together as an end use
 - -often meant to be educational
 - -can be used to release stress humans might feel after a "bad call" in a ballgame
 - -not meant to alleviate a prey or chewing instinct
 - Humans don't have a long-felt need for a toy that will help humans eliminate
 destructive chewing, or any oral behavior toward shoes, clothes, or furniture,
 however dogs do need such a toy to provide this outlet, and "rip apart" toys
 made for dogs provide this outlet
- 6. Toys that are created specifically for dogs, differ from toys that are made for humans
 - Size: with special consideration for the largest sized dogs' mouths, i.e. no small parts, tennis ball sized or larger, so as not to be swallowed
 - Shape: with special consideration for what would entice dogs, usually animal shapes to simulate prey, or balls to encourage chasing
 - · Color: animal behaviorists claim pink and orange are most enticing to dogs
 - Sound: voice boxes to simulate animal/prey sounds are especially desirable to dogs, as well as rattles and squeakers

- Safety: no plastic eyes, embroidered facial features are best, no toxic materials, must be washable, no removable metal pieces
- Velcro® that is strong enough to give dogs enough resistance to simulate "destruction" but soft enough to avoid abrasion of the gums
- Proper warnings on hang tags for dogs
- 7. "Rip apart" dog toys are non-obvious...they are new, unique, enswer a problem, and upon introduction are suddenly in great demand
 - The two top competing dog toy companies have each approached me with requests to enter into a licensing agreement for the "rip apart" dog toys IF a patent is granted (without a patent they will go forward without my consent or control, "We have a keen interest in your concept..."Mr.Gary Hirschberg, president, Vo-Toys, in an email to me, attached).
 - The largest chain of deg supply stores, Petco, will be merchandising the toys in their new high-end concept stores which only feature, according to buyer for Petco, Ms. Joanna Rudalevige, the most new and unique items.

I also prepared a Marketing Survey that was sent to about 70 pet shop owners who sell dog supplies, but did not follow up with them yet. So far the results of Pet Generation Marketing Survey have been.

1. For the Question, "Have you ever seen a "rip apart" dog toy, prior to the "Rip Roarin Funnies"?"

All 13 respondents said "NO"

2. For the Question, "Do your customers often complain that their dogs destroy or rip apart toys or things they are not supposed to?

All 13 respondents said "YES"

3. For the question, "Do you feel that the "Rip-Roarin Fun-nies" rip apart toys provide a good outlet for that rip apart need?

All 13 Respondents said "YES"

4. For the question, "Do dogs rip apart the individual pieces or do they seem appeased, at least temporarily, after removing the Veicro attachments?"

Several different responses were generated:

- 3 Respondents were unsure, 3 Stated that Some dogs do, Some do not, 5 stated that the dogs are at least temporarily appeared. 2 stated that Dogs still ripped apart individual pieces.
- 5. For the Question, "Do you feel that there was a long-felt need for a toy that dogs could be allowed to "rip apart" (and it could then be put back together!)

1 Respondent Said No. 11 Respondents said yes, and 1 Respondent was unsure

6. For the Question asking for the "features that make the Rip Roarin' Fun-nies especially well suited for dogs.

Respondents answered with, "Cute," Soft, Velcro, Fun, Noise Maker, Size, Velcro attachments, Small size of the Parts, Only come apart by pulling apart, Hide a Treat Option, Sound of the Velcro, Fact they can rip it apart, Washable, Noise, Cute Shapes, strong Velcro, quality fleece, Velcro Sound.

The most common response referred to attributes of the Velcro.

- 7. For the Question, "What kind of feedback had you had from your customers regarding the "Rip Roarin Fun-nies"
 - 12 Respondents reported that they received Postive Feedback
 - 1 Respondent reported that they received negative Feedback due to Opening of Back Seam.
- 8. For the Question, "In comparison to the other dog toys your store sells, please rank the sale: of the Rip Roarin Fun-nies"
 - 4 Respondents reported that they are not selling as well as other toys
 - 7 Respondents reported that they are Selling the same as the other toys
 - 2 Respondents reported that they were selling better than the other toys

I testify that the above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Julie Theel

2-20-2003

Date

Results of Pet Generation Marketing Survey

1. For the Question, "Have you ever seen a "rip apart" dog toy, prior to the "Rip Roarin Funnies"?"

All 13 respondents said "NO"

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Exhibit A-Amendment and Reply to Office Action Exhabit B-Affidavit

Exhibit C-Results of Pet Generation Marketing Survey Exhibit D-Article from "The Purina Encyclopedia of Dog Care"

Exhibit E-Article from "Vet on Call"

Exhibit F-Letter of Intent for Lieersing Agreement Proposed by Aspen Pet Products

Exhibit G-Email from Gary Horschberg, President

Exhibit H - Email with testimony regarding

uniqueness of my idea from Carmin Lauris Exhibit I - Initial email from Joanna Rudale vige Je expressing interest in my toys, which the merchandising agreement for their "boutige

xections in the Petco stores, for new and unique items

Eyhibit J- Market Surveys

Eyhibit K-Company brochure

A COMPLETE A-TO-Z GUIDE, FROM CANINE CARE AND PERSONALITY TRAITS TO BREED CHARACTERISTICS!



AMY D. SHOJAI FOREWORD BY BRIAN KILCOMMONS



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF DOG CARE

AMY D. SHOJAI

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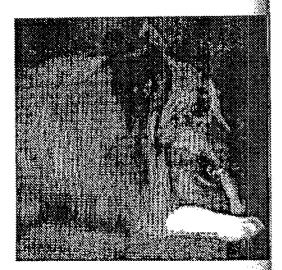
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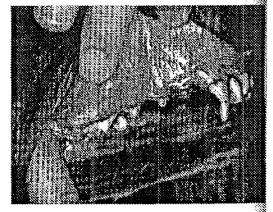
Uhewing

Just like human babies, puppies pur things in their mouths as a way to expect their world. Particularly when teething, young dogs chew objects to at the discomfort. But unlike people, dogs don't outgrow the habit of most and gnawing.

Your dog doesn't have hands and instead uses her mouth. Caning mouth-oriented creatures with an incredible ability to control the intensit



Dogs love to chew (Photo credit: Amy D. Shojai)



Chewing can wear or break teeth (Photo credit: Ralston Purina Company)





Chewing sticks can cause problems (Photo credit: Betry Stowe)

their bite. Modern pet dogs use their powerful teeth and jaws to pick up and carry things, to eat, for defense, and for recreational chewing. Gnawing objects stapply feels good to dogs.

This gral fixation tends to get dogs into trouble, however, because they aren't always particular about the objects they target. Canine chewing not only can damage your property, but can injure the dog when teeth are broken or an object is swallowed (see swallowed objects and periodontal disease).

ltems that carry their beloved owner's scent—like leather shoes—are often targeted, but nothing is sacred. Dogs who are bored and have nothing else to do tend to be problem chewers.

Chewing is normal, natural behavior for dogs and cannot—should nor be eliminated. It is up to owners to provide their pers with appropriate and safe chewing outlets to satisfy these doggy cravings.

Avoid offering objects that may confuse your dog. If she's not to chew your new shoes, don't offer the old ones; dogs may not be able to tell the difference. Choose instead a dog toy sold in grocery or pet stores. The key to solving problems is to reduce your dog's opportunities to make mistakes. Don't leave tempting items scattered about the house, and confine your dog to a "safe" zone when you aren't there to supervise her activity. When you catch



her chewing a forbidden object, tell her "no" and take it away (or remove her from the table leg), and provide her with an allowed alternative. A product like Bitter Apple applied to dangerous objects, like electrical conts, will help train your dog to leave forbidden items alone.

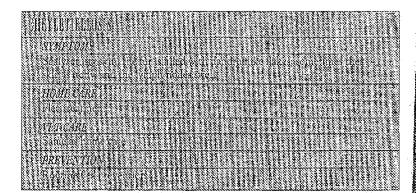
Never offer your dog bones to chew on. Raw hones are unsanitary, and both raw and cooked hones can splinter under the dog's assault. Swallowed fingments could cause lethal internal trauma by puncturing or blocking the gastrointestinal tract.

A number of commercial chew objects are available, including a variety of flavored rawhide toys. Rawhide is fine in moderation, but large dogs tend not only to chew, but to eat the things. In excess, rawhide can interfere with sound nutrition when your dog eats these treats instead of her food. They can also cause constituation and sometimes blockage if large enough pieces are swallowed.

Commercial hard rubber chew objects are available in sizes and even chicken and liver flavors to suit nearly every dog. The Nylabone and Gumabone products are excellent, offering a nearly indestructible source of chewing delight.

ChevleticHosis

Also called Cheyletiella dermatitis, this condition in dogs is usually caused by a mite called Cheyletiella yasguri. The mite lives on the surface of the dog's skin and causes a contagious disorder that tends to be limited to scaling and crussing of the skin. Typically, the dog's fur looks filled with dandruff. The skin may be itchy or not, and occasionally the lymph nodes will also swell. Some dogs may harbor the mite without showing any signs, yet spread the disease. Any





Vet On Call

The Best Home Remedies for Keeping Your Dog Healthy



Edited by Matthew Hoffman

Veterinary consultant: Christine L. Wilford, D.V.M., is a veterinarian in private practice in Seattle, Washington, and the "Veterinary News" columnist for American Kennel Club Gazette.



Rodale Press, Inc. Emmaus, Pennsylvania



Notice

This book is intended as a reference volume only, not as a medical manual. The information given here is designed to bely you make informed decisions about your pet's health. It is not intended as a substitute for any treatment that may have been prescribed by your veterinarian. If you suspect that your pet has a medical problem, we urge you to seek competent medical holp.

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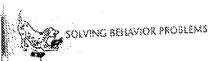
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-Our Purposs-

To explore, celebrate, and stand in owe before the special relationship between us and the onimals who share our Syes,





Destructiveness

die to the heartiest mutt, seem to have a secret side. When you're home your dog is always on his best behavior. But when you leave for work or go to bed, his personality changes and he shows his dark side—as you later discover when you find your tattered shirt, chewed shoes, and dug-up plants.

It's normal for puppies to chew, so your first task, after buying a food bowl, a tiny collar, and a chew toy, is to get your possessions off the floor and out of jaw-range. But destructive behavior has no age limits. Some older dogs, after years of good behavior, suddenly seem to forget their lessons and go on a rampage. They're not being spiteful or trying to punish you for leaving them at home all day. They're just finding the most convenient outlet for their emotions.

Don't Leave Me

Dogs don't show their emotions the way people do, so we sometimes forget that they experience many of the same feelings, such as anxiety, frustration, and boredom. They can't tell you when they're upset, but they can show you—sometimes with destructive behavior.

It's not a coincidence that dogs are usually at their most destructive when they're left alone, says Daniela Oriner, an animal behaviorist in Los Angeles, California. Until humans came on the scene, dogs always lived in packs, and they don't like spending time alone. In your dog's eyes, you're part of his pack, and when you leave the house, he may feel abandoned. As his anxiety mounts he may experience the canine equivalent of temporary insanity and begin an-

nihilating everything within reach, it's his way of working out bad feelings. For more information on separation anxiety see pages 158 to 159.

Unless you spend your days at home, there's no easy way to monitor your day's goings-on. It takes time and patience, but there are ways to help him cope with being on his own.

Enroll your dog in daggie day care. The extra attention will make him less anxious—and less destructive.

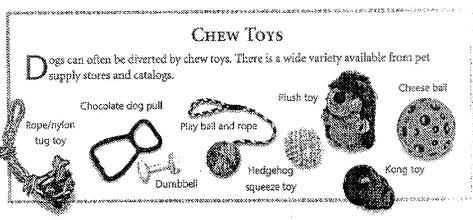


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Find him a job. Dogs who are confident and secure are much less likely to become destructive when they're alone. A great way to boost your dog's ego is to give him something to da—anything from carrine sports like flyball to visiting hospitals or nursing homes. Also, active dogs are tired dogs, so they're more likely to sleep than kook for trouble when you're gone, says Patricia McConneil, Ph.D., a certified animal behaviorist in Black Earth, Wisconsin.

Dogs need special training for therapy-dog work. That's not a bad thing, because many dogs enjoy obedience training, and especially the praise that comes from doing a good job.

Keep his jaws busy. One reason dogs chew when they're upset is because that's their way of relieving tension, and also of passing the time. One of the best ways to stop a destructive dog who enjoys chewing is to give him acceptable alternatives, like chew toys or tennis balls, says Steven Appelbaum, an animal behaviorist in Northridge, California. A good choice is the Kong toy, says Dr. McConnell. Made of stout

rubber with a hollow cavity inside, these are designed to hold small amounts of food, like cheese or a spoonful of peanut butter. Dogs can happily spend hours just trying to get the food out of the hole.

When choosing chew toys, avoid discarded socks or shoes. Your dog can't tell the difference between old, rejected slippers and brand-new pumps. If you let him think one shoe is acceptable, he'll conclude that all shoes are fair game.

Use a deterrent. Some dogs have a favorite object—anything from a piano leg to the corner of a door frame—and will keep returning to thew the life out of it. Spraying the object with something that tastes or smells bad, such as Bitter Apple or cirronella, available in pet supply stores, will help keep them away.

Another approach is to booby-trap the things your dog chews—for example, by putting coins in an empty soda can and tying it to the object of his desire. When he grabs it, the noise will startle him and he may think twice about chewing it next time.



Give him his own space. Doga naturally gravitate to small, enclosed, den-like spaces, especially when they're anxious. In fact, many dogs feel insecure when they have the run of the house—they don't know what to do with all that space. Try confining your dog in a small room or gradually get him used to being crated when you're not home. This can make him feel much safer and more secure, so he's less likely to run amok.

Sabatage his digging. Some dogs get destructive in the house; others love tearing up the yard. It's extremely hard to discourage a dog that digs digging, but you can make it harder for him by burying lava rock in the area, since he won't like the way it feels when he him it, says Appelbaum. Or try cutting his nails so that digging feels uncomfortable—but don't cut them so short that you damage the sensitive quick.

Drop by occasionally. If you're lucky enough to live close to work, you can always drop by at hunchtime. When you visit your dog during the day, his isolation is interrupted, and



This bearded callie is burning tremendous amounts of energy. The more he plays and exercises the less likely he is to be distressed and destructive.

he'il be less likely to be anxious when you're gone. When you're not able to get away from work, you might want to arrange with a neighbor or a professional dog sitter to drop by your home during the day. Giving your dog someone to play with, even if it's only for a few minutes, will help keep him entertained while taking his mind off your belongings, says Ortner.

Wear him out. While dogs often use destructive behavior as a way of defusing stress, they also do it simply because they have more energy than they know what to do with. A good solution is to give him a lot of exercise just before you leave in the morning and again when you get home at night, says Dr. McConneil. A dog who's used up all his energy is much less likely to be destructive.



Some dogs have been bred to work for hears augy writhout, rest, such as Border collies, Siberian hunder (left), flat-coat retrievers and Airedales. They have energy they need to burn, and tend to be destructive when they're kept inside with nothing to go

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Aspen Pet Products, inc. 4735 N. Florence Street Denver, CO 80238

November 11, 2002

Julie Theel, President Pet Generation 1280 Bison Suite: 89-263 Newport Beach, CA 92660

Re: "Rip Roarin" Fun-nies

Dear Julie:

On the basis of our telephone conversation, we are pleased to advise you that Aspen Pet Products, Inc. ("Aspen") is interested in entering into a definitive Exclusive License Agreement (the "Agreement") with Pet Generation ("Inventor") with respect to the Rip Roarin Fun-nies (the "Product"). We understand that the Product could potentially be the subject of a utility patent in the US, which has been filed by the inventor. This letter of Interest sets forth the key terms of our proposal for an Agreement, as follows:

- Tarms of Agreement. The principal terms of the Agreement will be as follows:
- a. Inventor will grant to Aspen the exclusive right to manufacture, distribute and sell the Product worldwide. Aspen will have full rights to copyrights and trademarks related to the Product.
 - b. Inventor will receive a 5% royalty on net sales of the Product, payable within 45 days of the close of each calendar quarter, along with a report of sales by SKU. This royalty structure is based on issuance of a broad patent protection to repel direct competition.
 - The term of the Agreement will be for the marketable life of the Product.

- 2. Access to information, immediately following acceptance of this letter, inventor will provide Aspen and its representatives access to all design concepts, prototypes, samples, patent applications, patent searches and registrations (if applicable), and other information of inventor relating to the design of the Product to enable Aspen to complete its investigation of it's marketability. Any proprietary or confidential information of inventor disclosed to Aspen in the course of its investigation will be held in confidence by Aspen and returned to the inventor if an Agreement between both parties is not reached.
- Expenses. Each party to the Agreement will pay all of its own expenses.
- 4. <u>Cooperation and Exclusive Dealing.</u> Inventor and Aspen will cooperate in good faith and expeditiously to determine the validity of the Product. Inventor agrees not to offer to license any rights to manufacture, distribute or sell the Product, and not to solicit, negotiate, accept or enter into any agreement with any third party with respect to the Product (including, without limitation, any agreement for the license, manufacture, sale, distribution or supply of the Product), until the expiration of 90 days from the execution date of this letter or such earlier date as the parties mutually agree that an Agreement cannot be reached.
- 5. Nondiaclosure/Publicity. Each party agrees that it will not, without the prior written consent of the other party, disclose publicly or to any third party the terms and conditions of this letter or the subsequent negotiations between the parties, except to the extent required by law or as may be required by Aspen in connection with determining the cost of the Product.
- 6. Numbinding Agreement. This letter of interest is intended to provide a basis for the preparation of a definitive Exclusive License Agreement. Until such agreement has been prepared and duly authorized, executed and delivered by both parties, none of the provisions of this letter shall be blidding on either party with the exception of the agreements and obligations contained in numbered paragraphs 2 through 5 above.
 - Acceptance. This letter of interest may be accepted in writing by inventor until November 19, 2002, but will terminated if not accepted by the close of business on that date.

If the foregoing is satisfactory, piease evidence your acceptance of this proposal by signing and returning to us the enclosed copy of this letter. It is understood that upon your acceptance, this letter will constitute a letter of interest to negotiate in good faith to complete a definitive Exclusive License Agreement on the terms set forth above.

Very buly yours,

ASPEN PET PRODUCTS, INC.

Robert J. Kirch, Chief Executive Officer

ACCEPTED AND AGREED
Date:
PET GENERATION
Ву:
Julie Theel, President

Julie Theel

From:

"Gary Hirschberg" < Gary H@Vo-Toys.com>

To:

-Julie@petgeneration.com>

Sent:

Thursday, October 17, 2002 10:19 AM

Subject:

conversation at Backer Show

Julie,

I attempted to reach you by telephone after the Chicago Backer show. I left a voicemail. I thought it might be easier to reach you by email in the absence of anyone manning the telephone. If you recall, we had a brief discussion at your booth about the patent you have developed for partitioning toys with velcro. We are very keen on the concept and we would like to pursue a licensing agreement with the patent and develop our own designs. We would be interested in marketing some of yours as well but if you chose to go at that alone, we would be content to sell our own program. I am not sure what direction you are interested in pursuing but it would seem to me that the first and most realistic attempt should be to collect royalties from someone else's efforts to offset your upfront expenses. If you would like to pursue this further, I welcome hearing from you to discuss in more detail. I can be reached as follows: email or at 1 800 272-0088.

Julie Theel

From:

"Carmen Laurin" <calaurin@shaw.ca>

To:

<julietheel@cox.net>

Sent: M

Monday, December 09, 2002 2:46 PM

Subject:

Rip Roarin' Fun-nies toys

Hi Julie (I think that's the name I heard on your phone answering machine),

I am the owner of Pet Perspectives. I write and produce unique illustrated memorials and stones for clients about their pets and for friends/family as gifts to pet owners. Like you, my business venture is fairly new.

As a complementary add-on to my product, I am interested in a sole distributorship of unique high quality pet items for British Columbia. I came upon your Rip Roarin' Fun-nies toys in another site, and further search brought me to YOUR site.

Your toys are truly unique - haven't come across any like them in my ongoing extensive search. Would you be interested in marketing the toys in British Columbia, if you are not already in stores here (again, I hadn't seen your toys until today).

Hook forward to hearing from you. In the misantime, congratulations on a unique product!

Carmen Laurin Pet Perspectives Bowser, BC

Phone: 250-757-8308

Julie Theel

From:

<info@petgeneration.com>

To:

<juliatheel@cox.net>

Sent:

Wednesday, January 15, 2003 2:26 PM

Subject:

Web Site Inquiries from Wholesale Form

Do not reply to this email. Create a new email to respond.

Name: joanna rudalevige Company Name: petco Address: 9125 rehço rd

City: san diego State: ca Zip: 92121 Country: USA

Phone: 858-453-7845 x3545

Fax:

Email: joannar@petco.com Type of Business: Retail Pet Store

How would you like to be contacted?: Email

Comments: interested in your product line ... would like to see price list

thanks joanna Market Survey "Rip Rocerin' Fun-nies" (* 3 marie) ...the Veicro® attached dog foys, that can be "ripped apart" and put back 1. Have you over seen a "rip apart" dog toy, prior to the "Rip Roarin" Fun-nies""? together 2. Do your customers often complain that their dogs destroy or rip apart toys or things they 3. Do you feel that the "Rip Roar in Fun-nies" rip-apart toys provide a good outlet for that 4. Do dogs rip apart the individual pieces, or do they seem appeared, at least temporarily. 5. Do you feel there was a long-felt need for a toy that dogs could be allowed to "rip apart" (and it could then be put back together!)? ISESS, MESSACOS VOICE ASTRON 6. Name the features, if any, that make the "Rip Roarin" Fun hies" especially well suited for 300 JUHINE WOOD TOUR FRE POULTISTON FILEVERED 7. What land offeedback have you had from your customers regarding the "Rip Roarin' Fun-1000 4hem 8. In comparison to the other day toys your store sells, please rank the sales of the 'Rip Roorin' Fun-nice"" not selling as well as the other toys X seiling the same as the other toys selling better than the other toys 9. Out of the different "Rip Rourin' Fun-nies" designs, which is your best seller? 1000all 10. What design/character would you like to see introduced next into the family of "Rip Rocrin" Punnies " IVIA KM II. Any godditional thoughts or comments? Store Telephone Number: 42

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Signed: 1/12/11/12/2000

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e REALLY appreciate your input! Thank you so very much! Pet Generation, LLC

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Signed Signed DUNEL THE We REALLY appreciate your input! Thank you so very much!

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J.L. MARE ASSECTIATES - Fax:716-265-9751

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Signed Foot, House

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Address 3320 W. M. Crow #2 SAMTLE . WA 98/99 Store Telephyne Number: 206 283 7297

Market Survey



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Address: 2/3/2 W	epley him		
Store Telephone Number		64.	
Signed: Signed	<u> </u>		
	L'Y appreciate your	input! Thank you so	very much!

Pet Generation, LLC PLEASE FAX BACK TO 949-425-8756

1280 Bison, Suite B9-260 - Newport Beach, CA 92660 - (886) 204-2538 - F (949) 425-8756

Market Survey "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies™ ...the Velcro® attached dog foys, that can be "ripped apart" and put back together 1. Have you ever seen a "rip apart" dog toy, prior to the "Rip Roarin Fun-mes""? 2. Do your customers often complain that their dogs destroy or rip apart toys or things they are not supposed to? كُولُا _ 3. Do you feel that the "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies" rip-apart toys provide a good outlet for that rip apart "need"? YES 4. Do dogs rip apart the individual pieces, or do they seem appeased, at least temporarily. after removing the Velcro® attachments? <u>VPS</u> 5. Do you feel there was a long-felt need for a toy that dogs could be allowed to "rip apart" (and it could then be put back together)? VPS 6. Name the features, if any, that make the "Rip Roccin" Fun-nies" especially well suited for dogs the fact they can Rip it AROCT 7. What kind of feedback have you had from your customers regarding the "Rip Roarin" Funmore none yet they seem to like the consent 8. In comparison to the other dog toys your store sells, please rank the sales of the "Alp __ not selling as well as the other toys Just started selling these Roamin' Fun-nies """: selling the same as the other toys __selling better than the other toys 9. Out of the different "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies" designs, which is your best seller Bye MOO (DU) 10. What design/character would you like to see introduced next into the family of "Rip Roomin" Fun-nies DINCSAUCS II. Any additional thoughts or comments? Store: Academy 84 Canine Rehauler-Address 4205 Z40th 5+ Se

Title: (3.11) We REALLY appreciate your input! Thank you so very much!

Pet Generation, LLC

PLEASE FAX BACK TO 949-425-8756

1250 Biscu. Suite E9-263 • Newport Beach, CA 92560 • (865) 204-2539 • F (848) 425-6756

Bothell Wa

Signed Line

Store Telephone Number: 429

Market Survey



the	: Velcro® attached dog foys, that can be "ripped apart" and put back
toge	ther in the state of the state
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2.	Do your customers often complain that their dogs destroy or rip apart toys or things they

- are not supposed to? 4 < 3. Do you feel that the "Rip Rearin' Fun-nies" rip-apart toys provide a good outlet for that rip apart "need"? 4 4 4 5
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- 6. Name the features, if any, that make the "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies" especially well suited for dogs. ✓✓ ১৯৫४४
- 7. What kind of feedback have you had from your customers regarding the "Rip Roarin' Funnies"?
- 8. In comparison to the other dog toys your store sells, please rank the sales of the "Rip Rown'n Fun-nies".
 - not selling as well as the other toys
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- 9. Out of the different "Rip Roarin" Fun-nies"* designs, which is your best seller? 100000
- 10. What design/character would you like to see introduced next into the family of "Rip Roarin' Fun-hies" (2004) [164]
- 11. Any additional thoughts or comments?

Store: Decigles In The Window

Address: 100 C Amelian

L3 A 10404

Store Telephone Number: 512 704 7065

Signed: 7744

Title: L254 WALLES

We REALLY appreciate your input! Thank you so very much!

Pet Generation, LLC

PLEASE FAX BACK TO 949-425-8756

1280 Reson, Suite 89-263 • Newport Beach, CA 92660 • (866) 204-2559 • F (949) 425-8756

The Velcro® attached dog Toys, that can be "ripped apart" and put b together! 1. Have you ever seen a "rip apart" dog toy, prior to the "Rip Roarin" Fun-nies". 2. Do your customers often complain that their dogs destray or rip apart toys or things to are not supposed to? 3. Do you feel that the "Rip Roarin" Fun-nies" rip-apart toys provide a good autiet for the "Rip apart" need. 4. Do dogs rip apart the individual pieces, or do they seem appeased, at least temporarily. 5. Do you feel there was a long-felt need for a toy that dogs could be allowed to "rip apart (and it could then be put back together!)) 6. Name the features, if any, that make the "Rip Roarin" Fun-nies" especially well suited for the features, if any, that make the "Rip Roarin" Fun-nies". 7. What kind of feedback have you had from your customers regarding the "Rip Roarin" Fun-nies". 8. In comparison to the other dog toys your store sells, please rank the sales of the "Rip Roarin" Fun-nies". 9. Out of the different "Rip Roarin" Fun-nies" designs, which is your best selling better than the other toys selling hetter than the other toys. 9. Out of the different "Rip Roarin" Fun-nies" designs, which is your best soller? Participation of the different of the comments? 5. Out of the different Rip Roarin" Fun-nies" designs, which is your best soller? Participation of the different of the comments? 5. Out of the different Rip Roarin" Fun-nies" designs, which is your best soller? Participation of the comments? 5. Out of the different Rip Roarin" Fun-nies" designs, which is your best soller? Participation of the comments?	together! 1. Have you ever seen a "rip apart" dog toy, prior to the "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies"* 2. Do your customers often complain that their dogs destray or rip apart toys or things to are not supposed to? 3. Do you feel that the "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies"* rip-apart toys provide a good outlet for the "Rip apart" need"? 4. Do dogs rip apart the individual pieces, or do they seem appeased, at least temporarily. 5. Do you feel there was a long-felt need for a toy that dogs could be allowed to "rip apart" (and it could then be put back together!)? 6. Name the features, if any, that make the "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies" especially well suited to dogs. 7. What kind of feedback have you had from your customers regarding the "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies". 8. In comparison to the other dog toys your store sells, please rank the sales of the "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies". 8. In comparison to the other dog toys your store sells, please rank the sales of the "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies". 9. Out of the different "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies" designs, which is your best saller? 9. Out of the different "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies" designs, which is your best saller? 10. What design/character would you like to see introduced next into the family of "Direction". 11. The fun-nies". 12. The fun-nies of the different "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies" designs, which is your best saller? 13. The fun-nies of the different "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies" designs, which is your best saller? 14. What design/character would you like to see introduced next into the family of "Direction".		
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We REALLY appreciate your input! Thank you so very much! Pet Generation, LLC

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Market Survey	
"Rip Roarin' Fun-nies" the Veicno® attached	" Ju Beneration W
the Veicro® attached	dog Toys, that can be "ripped apart" and put back
together	
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3. Do you feel that the "Rip rip spart "read"? <u>18</u>	Roarin' Fun-nies*** rip-apart toys provide a good outlet for that
4. Do doos rip apart the ind	fividual pieces, or do they seem spoeased, at ligast temporarily.
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	or comments Year up The Fun STM = 0
Address: 1915 LiterTu	17.503
Store Telephone Number:	<u> 503-391-0570</u>
Signed The Land	
	V appreciate your input! Thank you so very much!

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Market Survey	
"Rip Roarin' Fun-nies Tur For & comment of the comm	
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11. Any additional thoughts or comments? Over 200 xxx	
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2011/2 22 08/07	
Store Telephone Number: 286 - 783 - 4972	
Signed: Vin A	
Tille Karon Mandon president and	
We REALLY appreciate you input! Thank you so very much!	
Pet Ceneration, LLC	
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3	Do you feel that the "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies" rip-apart toys provide a good outlet for that rip apart "need"? Y/5
.4	. Do dogs rip apart the individual pieces, or do they seem appeased, at least temporarily, after removing the Velcro® attachments? <u>Voves (a) Sixy Welp's</u>
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	Store: No Jer Control Address: 1600 Hanchester Fallow No 62011
. ;	Store Telephone Number: 636/241-7299 Signed: TOThingsm
	Title: <u> </u>

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Give your customers something NEW!

FINALLY ... A toy your dog can really *** *** A WHOLE NEW CONCEPT IN TOYS!





Did you ever think you'd see the day when you would laugh and cheer as your dog excitedly rips the head, arms, and leas off of his brand new toy? Well that day is here! Introducing the "Rip Roarin' Fun-nies," a truly unique, patent pending, fun new type of toy for dags that have Velcra attaching its to allow a dag to really feel

like he is mapping the toy apart, and a human

companion can simply stick it back together for more fun!

The benefits of this new concept in toys are many!!...

- Fewer needle and thread "aurgeries" perform on poor, dismembered toys!
- Less money wasted on expensive toys that ruined when they are ripped to pieces!
 - A healthy, wonderful alternative to that ne pair of shoes when teaching your dog wh not to leaf apart!
 - Terrific ripping noise that drives dogs crazy with excitement!
 - Treats may be hidden in either of the ball designs more funt
 - Multiple toys in one!
 - Squeaks, fattles, and unusul noises!
 - Happiness in knowing you are providing a fun NEW source of entertainment for your beloved dog

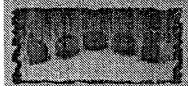
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that pleases and
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That den't forget to
share with your dog

Eight great designs now. with more in the works!



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